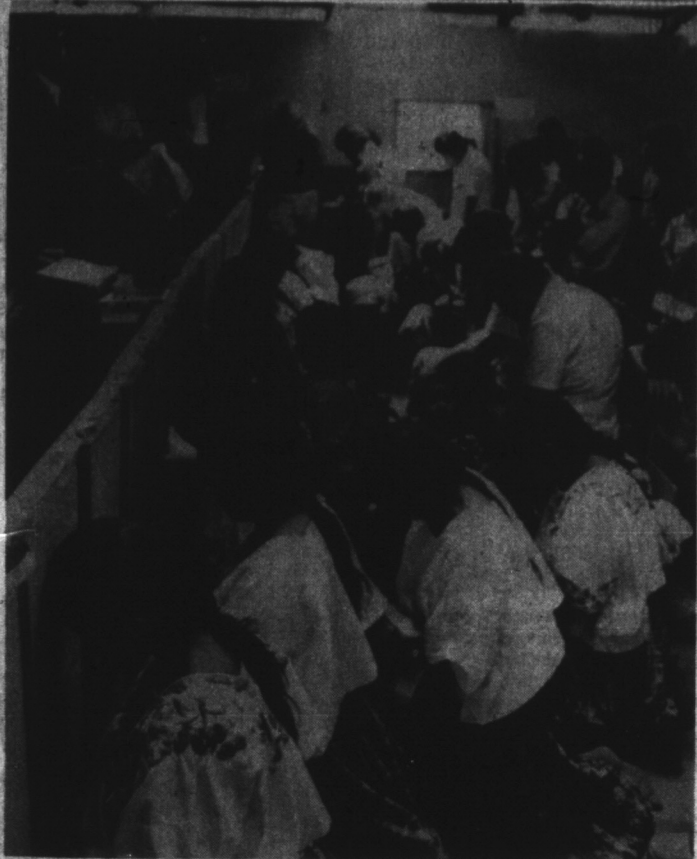


Five Fabulous Sundays
4th Week Total: 1,123



K'ekchi Indian women kneel in prayer for sick friends and relatives at the close of morning worship at Jerusalem Baptist Church in the Pocola Valley of Guatemala. Joining in the service (in background) are several participants from the Southern Baptist-sponsored seminar on work with indigenous people which met in nearby Coban. Jerusalem church was one of two congregations in the late 1960s from which Baptist work among the K'ekchis has grown to 67 congregations today. The K'ekchi churches plan to have 100,000 members by the end of the decade. (KP) photo by Leland F. Webb.

Nearly 20 Percent Of Adults Are Charismatic

CAROL STREAM, Ill. (EP) — Nineteen percent of all adult Americans consider themselves to be Pentecostal or charismatic Christians, according to a Gallup Poll taken for Christianity Today magazine.

The survey found that of these 29 million persons, about one-fourth are Roman Catholics and two-thirds Protestants, with the remainder scattered among small denominations or independent of a church affiliation.

Of the total number of charismatics,

about one-sixth — 5 million — say they have spoken in tongues. Denominations varied sharply in this category, with one-tenth of Catholic charismatics registering as tongues-speakers and one-fifth of the Protestants.

Protestant charismatics who spoke in tongues include one-seventh of charismatic Lutherans, one-tenth of charismatic Methodists, one-sixteenth of the charismatic Baptist, and a tiny proportion of charismatic Presbyterians.

Lassetts Support Selves During Stint In Africa

George W. Lasset, Jr., retired lieutenant colonel, an army chaplain, and his wife, Josephine, are in Kisumu, Kenya, where they are doing volunteer mission work with the missionaries, Buck and Barbara Donaldson.

Lasset, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Lasset, Sr. of Rt. 6, Laurel, was formerly pastor of churches in Wayne and Jones Counties. Recently he and his wife retired and moved to Wayne County (where they joined the Pleasant Grove Church) from Mansfield, La., where they had been active in First Baptist Church.

In Kenya the Lassetts are supporting themselves. They arrived there the first week of February, and plan to



George and Josephine Lasset

stay six or eight months. George will assist Buck, who is missions director for about 90 churches. Josephine, a nurse, will work with Barbara, a medical doctor.

The Lassetts' address is Box 596, Kisumu, Kenya, East Africa.

Church Merger Symbolized With Wedding Ceremony

"Dearly Beloved: We are gathered together here in the sight of God to join together the Southside Baptist Fellowship and the Beacon Baptist Fellowship into one church. The church was begun by Jesus Christ, commended by the Apostle Paul, and sanctioned through the centuries by the Holy Spirit. It is an instrument of God and, therefore, is not to be treated lightly, or unadvisedly; but in the fear and love of God. Into this holy estate, these two congregations come now to become one church."

The wedding of the two Hattiesburg churches took place on Feb. 17, 1980, the ceremony was conducted at Beacon Church by Joel Ray, director of Missions, Lebanon Baptist Association.

"I require and charge you both congregations that if either of you knows why you may not be joined together under God, you do now make it known. For be you well assured, that if any such congregations are joined together otherwise than as God's will does allow, the resulting church will not be acting within the will of God."

"BEACON FELLOWSHIP, will you have the SOUTHSIDE FELLOWSHIP to be a vital part of you, to live together after God's teachings, in the holy fellowship of church? Will you love her, comfort her, and honor her as yourself, in trouble and in success, so long as you both are a part of this new fellowship?"

"We will."

"SOUTHSIDE FELLOWSHIP, will you have the BEACON FELLOWSHIP

to be a vital part of you, to live together after God's teachings, in the holy fellowship of church? Will you love her, comfort her, and honor her as yourself, in trouble and in success, so long as you both are a part of this new fellowship?"

"We will."

"BEACON FELLOWSHIP, do you take SOUTHSIDE FELLOWSHIP to be your wedded helpmate, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in trouble and in success, to love and to cherish, and in all things to regard her as yourself, and always seeking to honor and serve the Lord together as one church as long as you both shall remain a part of this new church fellowship?"

"We do."

"SOUTHSIDE FELLOWSHIP, do you take BEACON FELLOWSHIP to be your wedded helpmate, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in trouble and in success, to love and to cherish, and in all things to regard her, whose name you will now bear, as yourself, and always seeking to honor and serve the Lord together as one church as long as you both shall remain a part of this new church fellowship?"

"We do."

"With these commitments to each other and to God, with these pledges of love and loyalty to each other, with your promise to strive together, and your desire to be one church, I now

(Continued on page 2)

Gospel Sharing In

By Leland F. Webb
COBAN, Guatemala (BP) — How do you share the Christian faith with people in the Indian cultures of Latin America without being rejected, tragically misunderstood, or guilty of altering the integrity of an entire people?

To tackle that riddle, more than 30 persons, including Southern Baptist missionaries and national Baptists from 10 countries, get together at a place where the gospel has spread like a spring flood among the indigenous people.

The seminar on work with indigenous people, the first such meeting sponsored by Southern Baptists abroad, convened in Co-

ban, Guatemala, in K'ekchi country. In this area K'ekchi Baptist congregations have grown from 2 to 67 in less than a decade.

The number of people in Latin America who speak an Indian language is considerable — an estimated 30 million. The number of languages and dialects involved runs into the hundreds.

Ted Lindwall, Southern Baptist missionary to Guatemala, reported that the people of the area who speak Indian languages are "divided half and half between Middle America — primarily the countries of Mexico and Guatemala — and South America, primarily in the Andean countries

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They include such large groups as the K'ekchi, Quiche, and Cakchiquel Indians in Guatemala; the Aymara and Quechua peoples of Bolivia and Peru; the Mapuche Indians of Chile and Argentina; the Quichuas of Ecuador; the Guaraní-speaking people of Paraguay; and such groups in Mexico as the Yucateco, the Nahuatl, the Mazahua peoples and others.

As K'ekchi women in their traditional, brightly embroidered blouses passed the Coban pension (broadening house) where the seminar met, Baptists, who themselves represented a variety

grounds, studied cultural and biblical principles of witnessing in other cultures.

Speakers repeatedly emphasized the need to respect and study each separate group of peoples.

Working in an indigenous culture, "The missionary should recognize that his mission is to evangelize and not to change the way of life," cautioned Howard W. Law, academic dean at Simpson College in San Francisco, Calif.

"The way you share the gospel should be appropriate and significant, relevant to the person with whom you are sharing," ad-

(Continued on page 2)

The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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WMU: Arthritis Nor Ingrowing Toenails

"Nothing Can Stop You If You Want To Volunteer"

By Anne McWilliams

"Two thousand years ago the testimony of women meant nothing," Catherine Allen told 1800 women gathered in Laurel for the March 17-19 state Woman's Missionary Union convention.

Mrs. Allen, who is assistant to the executive director of WMU, SBC, continued, "At the empty tomb Jesus asked Mary Magdalene, 'Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?' and when He had spoken her name and she had recognized Him, He told her, 'Stop clinging to me. Go and tell... He still calls women today, saying, 'Go and tell. Serve and love Me best of all'."

Monday night at First Baptist Church, Laurel, the women received a welcome from Larry Kennedy, pastor of the church; Molly B. Newton, public relations director of the city of Laurel; and Mrs. Vincent Scoper, Jr. of Laurel, over-all chairman of the convention committees.

Mrs. Bob Dent of Holly Springs presided, in her first year as state WMU president. Officers, re-elected, were Mrs. Dent; Mrs. G. W. Smith, Louisville, associate recording secretary; Mrs. Charles Tyler, Collins, vice president; and Mrs. A. B. Burt, Philadelphia, recording secretary. Marjean Patterson is the executive director.

Four stages of development for Christian service were outlined during the sessions, on the theme, "Jesus Calls Us." These stages: "Concerned," "Called," "Committed," and "Commissioned."

Mrs. James M. Young, missionary, spoke of her concern for the people of Yemen.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, spoke of his concern about Mississippi. He said that Sales and Marketing Management

Magazine puts Jackson in a group of 25 metropolitan cities that will grow at the fastest rate through 1981.

Also he pointed out that the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Project is now becoming a reality. "It is projected that 40,000,000 tons of commerce will move on the waterways before the year 2000, with a savings in transportation costs of more than \$100,000,000 per year. The waterways will provide a population gain of 270,000 people who will be needed for 135,000 new jobs."

Because of all this new growth in the state, he said he sees the need for Baptists' securing church sites in new areas of residential development.

Lowrey Compere, president emeritus, Clarke College, and Hugh Tobias, faculty member at Clarke, provided drama for the closing moments of each session. Compere as Simon Peter told stories of Jesus to young Mark, played by Tobias — from the calling of the disciples, through the crucifixion and resurrection, and the Great Commission. These were stories from the Gospel of Mark, which Bible book Compere has committed totally to memory.

Called

Of life-changing commitments, Catherine Allen said, "Jesus calls for complete sacrifice of self." Author of a new book about Lottie Moon, she quoted Miss Moon: "More and more I see that the call to be a Christian is the call to self-sacrifice."

Mrs. Allen added, "The 70s were a me decade. Let's make the 80s a we decade. Some people pay more in interest on debts than they give to missions. We have to tighten our budgets, for a bold mission thrust. And if we are to double the number of missionaries by the end of the century we must train more young people in mission education. We will need more volunteers of all ages. No matter how old you are,

it's not too late for you to go. Nothing — from arthritis to ingrowing toenails — can hold you back."

During the convention, Wilda (Mrs.

James) Fancher of Jackson, secretary to the executive WMU director, interviewed four Mississippi women, all (Continued on page 2)



State WMU officers re-elected at the March 17-19 convention are: Mrs. Charles Tyler, Collins, vice president; Mrs. Bob Dent, Holly Springs, president; Mrs. A. B. Burt, Philadelphia, recording secretary; and Mrs. G. W. Smith, Louisville, associate recording secretary.

Another Obscenity Law Erased By Supreme Court

A number of issues relating to religion and morality were touched on by the United States Supreme Court recently.

It struck down a Texas law which allowed judges to shut down theatres for one year based on their record of showing obscene films.

The court declined the appeal of radio preacher Carl McIntyre who was attempting to have his Admiral Hotel in Cape May, N. J., exempted from local property taxes.

And it also declined to review the case of a North American Rockwell Corp. employee dismissed 10 years ago for refusing to join a union on religious grounds.

The obscenity ruling noted that the law amounted to an unacceptable prior restraint on free speech, a First Amendment right. Citing language first adopted by the court in 1963, the 5-4 ruling said that "any system of prior restraints of expression comes to this court bearing a heavy presumption against its Constitutional validity."

McIntyre, a self-described fundamentalist who has long espoused a variety of right-wing political causes in his radio broadcasts, bought the six-story hotel in 1962 as a Bible conference center. While admitting that outside groups occasionally use the facility on a cost basis, McIntyre argued that he was denied equal protection of the law when his application for exemption from real property taxes was denied.

He claimed that New Jersey law, which says such plants must be used "exclusively" for religious purposes, has been interpreted in other similar cases so as to allow minimal exceptions. Among other outside groups

(Continued on page 3)

Joe Odle, Retired Record Editor, Dies In Jackson

Joe T. Odle, who retired in 1976 after 17 years as editor of the Baptist Record, died March 24 after a brief illness.

He was 71 years of age.

Funeral services were scheduled for 2 p.m. March 26 at First Baptist Church, Jackson, under the direction of Wright and Ferguson Funeral Directors. Frank Pollard, pastor of the church, was to have charge of the service. He was to be assisted by W. Doug-

las Hudgins, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church and executive secretary emeritus of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Schuyler Batson, associate pastor of First Church; and Mike Jeter, assistant to the pastor of the church. Burial was to be in Lakewood Cemetery in Jackson.

The nature of his illness was diagnosed as cancer of the pancreas.

Odle became editor of the Baptist Record in 1959 after serving for three years as associate executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Before that he had been pastor of First Baptist Church, Gulfport, for nine years and pastor of First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs, for four years.

(Continued on page 7)

Workshop To Offer Historical Training For Church Leaders

"Baptist History in the Local Church" is the theme of Historical Commission, SBC, workshops to be held in Mississippi, May 5, 6, 7, and 8.

"These workshops will provide training and materials to assist church leaders in collecting and preserving historical materials of the church, pulling a creative story from church records and sharing the story of the church."

Dates, times and locations are: May 5, 7-9:30 p.m., First Church, Tupelo; May 6, 7-9:30 p.m., First Church, Greenville; May 7, 1:30-4 p.m., Alta Woods Church, Jackson; and May 8, 7-9:30 p.m., First Church, Hattiesburg.

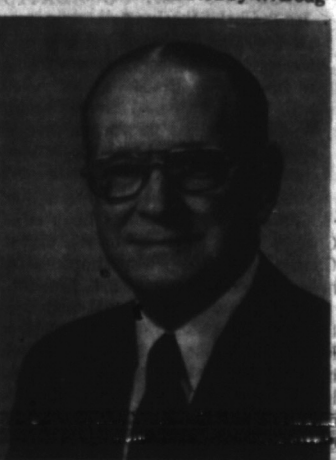
Workshop leaders are May, A. Ronald-Tonks, assistant executive director, and Charles W. Dewese, director of education services.

The workshops are designed especially for pastors, ministers of educa-

tion, church clerks, church librarians, history committee members, and others interested in the life and work of Baptists.

The workshop session on May 8 (Hattiesburg) will include a celebration of the 135th anniversary of the beginning of the Southern Baptist Convention in 1845.

Pre-registration is not necessary, and no registration fee will be charged.



Joe Odle

"Nothing Can Stop You If You Want To Volunteer"

(Continued from page 1)
associational WMU directors, who have taken part in short term volunteer mission projects. (See related story next week.)

James M. Young, medical doctor whose mission assignment is at the Baptist Hospital at Jibla, Yemen, said, "Preach the kingdom of God and heal the sick." That Scripture verse was God's call to me, and if I had my life to live over, I would still preach the kingdom of God and heal the sick."

He said that Yemen is changing. Last July television came to Jibla, so that now the world is in their living rooms. The first girl to finish high school in Jibla will graduate this spring. More and more automobiles are coming into the country — which means more accidents, and thus more emergency patients.

The ratio of doctors and nurses to population, despite the changes, is still probably the poorest in the world. The country is thoroughly Muslim, but more and more are using the Baptist hospital, Young said. In 1975, only 75 babies were born in the hospital the whole year. But last year, well over 700 babies were born in the hospital. He said they do not know of course how many became Christians as a result of the hospital work, but someone reported to him of hearing a woman in another city singing, "Into My Heart." She said she learned the chorus at the Baptist hospital in Jibla, and added, "They told me there about Jesus."

Mary Frank Kirkpatrick told of her call to Nigeria, where she was in Baptist student work. "I have as deep a love for the African youths there as I could have for any child of my own. If God had told me to leave, I would not have understood why." When she was taken into custody for no known reason and questioned by authorities and asked to leave the country, she did not understand why. "But I knew God was in the middle of the situation."

She transferred to Liberia where she teaches Bible at Ricks Institute. "I have surrendered my life completely



Dell (Mrs. Vince) Scooper, Laurel, over-all chairman of the WMU convention committees, chats with Patti (Mrs. Bob) Dent of Holly Springs, state president.

to God, and I just stand by and watch while He runs the show. It's wonderfully exciting to anticipate what He will do next. He calls each of us according to His purpose. Missions is not a call to Liberia, or to Nigeria, or to teach in a classroom, or to do BSU work. It is a call to help others."

Committed.
Cloyd and Claudette Harjo shared their experiences in beginning mission work with their fellow Indians in the Pascagoula area. They sang together. Then, while R. L. and Beth Sigrest of Yazoo City, accompanied by Mrs. Perry Robinson, Laurel organist, sang "The Lord's Prayer," Mrs. Harjo illustrated the prayer in beautiful Indian sign language. She wore a Creek Indian dress.

James E. Young, missionary to Bangladesh, said that Southern Baptists are now committed to meeting some of the physical needs of Bangladesh, as well as the spiritual.

He said that thousands in Bangladesh are reading the Bible through Bible correspondence courses and in Bible reading libraries. "In some villages near the border of India, where most of the people are illiterate, one who is able to read can call the villagers together, and many will

come to listen as he reads from the Word of God."

Tuesday evening, large crowds of adults, young people, and children attended the convention, where they were offered a selection of activities: refreshments; a missions fair in the gym; a puppet show by the Jones County Junior College Puppeteers; a film, "One World, One Mission"; and a concert by Beth and R. L. Sigrest, who directed the music for the entire convention.

Commissioned.

Mrs. Hal Lee, missionary to France, said, "God commissioned me to go and share the hope that is in Christ." Betty Hart, missionary to Chile, said, "When God commissioned me, He gave me a special love for Spanish-speaking people." She previously studied in Cuba, and worked in a Mexican mission in Texas.

The Jones Junior College Choir presented special music at one session, directed by Milford Valentine.

Offerings taken will help provide a set of handbells to be used in the work of music missionaries Errol and Mary Simmons, in Spain.

Marjorie Rowden Kelly of Jackson, formerly a missionary to Israel, gave the devotional meditation at the beginning of each session. In closing she said, "Two thousand years have passed since Jesus lived in Nazareth. Yet people live there today who have never been told of Him." In prayer response, the Sigrests sang, "How long, how long must we wait?"



R. L. Sigrest sang, accompanied at the piano by his wife Beth. The couple from Yazoo City directed the convention music.



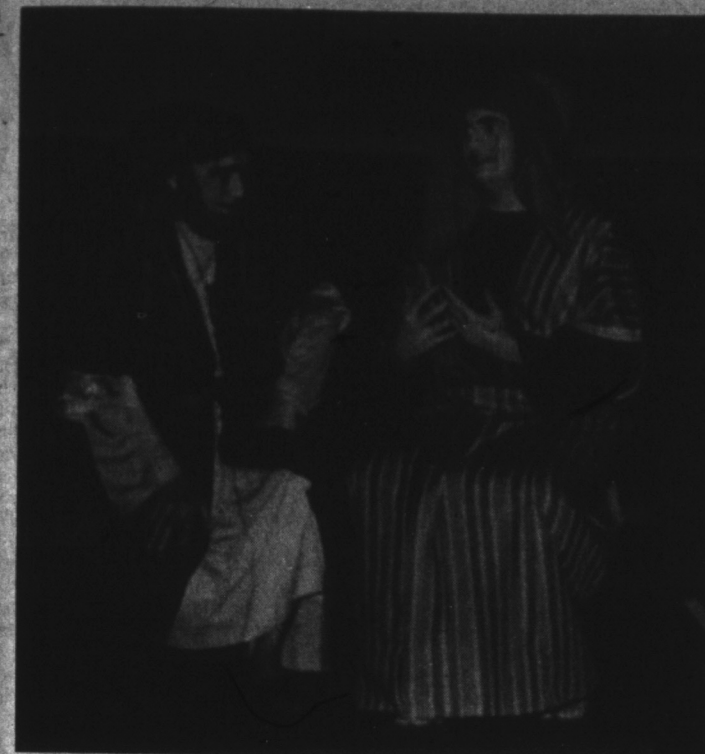
Cloyd and Claudette Harjo, missionaries working with the Indian congregation at Pascagoula, spoke and sang on Tuesday afternoon. Her dress is of Creek Indian style.



Mrs. J. M. Kirkpatrick of Noxapater, mother of Mary Frank Kirkpatrick, right, attended the WMU convention and the luncheon for parents of missionaries, and other guests.

In El Salvador Flux Continues

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries in politically troubled El Salvador are acting with caution as they go about their work in the capital city of San Salvador.



Lowrey Compere played the part of Simon Peter, left, and Hugh Tobias was Mark, in dramatic dialogues using material from the book of Mark. Compere is president emeritus, Clarke College, and Tobias is on the faculty at Clarke.



Mary Frank Kirkpatrick, missionary to Liberia, autographs programs for kids at the missions fair.



The Jones County Junior College Puppeteers stayed busy behind the scenes as they presented several shows on Tuesday evening.



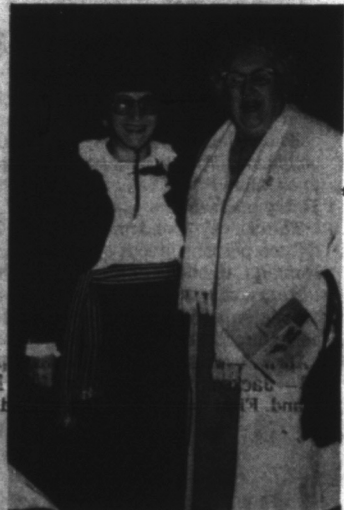
Lou Ann (Mrs. Hal) Lee, right, missionary to France, shows French curios at the missions fair.



Catherine Vanderhoof, left, of Vietnam, a student nurse in Texas, was a visitor at the WMU convention. She came to the States as a refugee, and many of her family are still in Vietnam. A couple in this country adopted her so that she could stay. With her is Mrs. Ivor Clark.



Mrs. Lizzie Parker, right, was the oldest of the 40 or more parents of missionaries present at the luncheon where they were honor guests. Mrs. Parker, 94, is the mother of John Parker, who recently retired as missionary to Chile. With her is Mrs. Harold Murphy, of Clinton, associate WMU director, district XII.



Betty Hart of Sandy Hook and Georgia Mae Ogburn of Meridian, both missionaries to Chile, got together during the missions fair. Miss Hart, who works at the Good Will Center in Antofagasta, wore her Chilean cowboy (cowgirl?) outfit. Miss Ogburn has retired.



Catherine Allen, assistant to the executive director, WMU, SBC, and author of a new book on Lottie Moon, talks to children at missions fair.

Church Merger Symbolized FCC Rules For With Wedding Ceremony "Editorial Discretion"

(Continued from page 1)

pronounce you, upon the acceptance of membership credentials, to be one — THE BEACON BAPTIST CHURCH. Believing this union is of divine sanction, I pronounce this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. What God has joined together into one church, let no one put asunder except that it be under God's leadership and for His glory.

ing new churches. . . Likewise, there is validity in consolidating churches. . . Consolidation is very, very right when God directs that two churches combine. Churches may well merge together for greater strength and team effort to accomplish the work that God wants the group to do. . . For a long time the members have thought, pondered, prayed about, discussed, and planned relative to this movement. . .

WASHINGTON (BP) — The Federal Communications Commission has ruled that WFAA-TV in Dallas was within its rights when it dropped evangelist James Robison's Sunday morning television show in February 1979.

Robison's program was removed

In Alien Cultures

(Continued from page 1)

vised Law, who worked for 17 years among indigenous peoples in Mexico for Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Ebbie C. Sdith, associate professor of Christian ethics and missions at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, and a former missionary to Indonesia, said that Missions in Latin America must recognize the diversity that exists. "The best mission strategy takes each group separately and patterns the gospel so that it can be most easily accepted by that group," he said.

The seminar also examined the need to approach indigenous people in their basic language, even when they are bilingual. In discussing serious and basic mat-

the next 10 years," Elias Cuc Quim, a K'ekchi pastor and association leader, told the seminar. The churches are aiming at a 50 percent annual growth in both congregations and membership.

The K'ekchi growth has followed basic principles, the missionaries reported. The New Testament in K'ekchi was already available, and Southern Baptists started their work in the K'ekchi language, not in Spanish, reported Wendall C. Parker, missionary who has worked among the K'ekchis for nearly 10 years.

"We tried to use the natural context" of families and friends, Parker added. "We haven't asked for money from the convention or the mission. The churches have been self-supporting from the beginning. Instead of trying to do it all ourselves, we have worked to

Conference Tells Importance Of Bible Living Over Talking

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — A bevy of high-powered speakers emphasized the authority and power of the Scriptures in a Bible conference at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, but told participants it's living the Bible that counts.

The three-day Bible conference originally was to have been jointly sponsored by the seminary and planners of a series of Heart of America Bible Conferences initiated last fall by Evangelist James Robison and W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas, to affirm the authority of the Scripture and call for spiritual renewal.

But seminary President Russell Dilday Jr., citing "programming conflicts" with Robison, dropped him from the program and announced in February that the seminary would take over sole sponsorship of the event.

Criswell, who had a recent heart attack and who is under current doctor's advice to curtail activities not directly related to his pastorate, didn't attend the conference. Another invited speaker, Southern Baptist Convention President Adrian Rogers, was still recovering from gall bladder surgery and did not attend.

The speakers, all Southwestern Seminary graduates, who took the podium before packed audiences of 1,200 to 1,400 in the seminary's Truett Auditorium, focused on the theme "Communicating the Message of the Bible in the '80s."

Bailey Smith, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church in Del City, Okla., described the role of the minister as a paradox. Though a man of limited

abilities, the minister is tapped into an unlimited source, he said.

Smith challenged the audience, composed almost exclusively of seminary faculty, students and family members, to capitalize on those things which God has to offer by facing the confrontations of the new decade. "If you want more of the blessings of God, you will have to increase the battle," he said.

James T. Draper Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas, said the challenge of the '80s is for God to build great "evangelistic lighthouses" and to use the Bible as the blueprint.

"Preaching the authority of the Bible does not build evangelistic churches. We must believe it, but also live it," Draper said.

William M. Pinson Jr., president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, emphasized that there's no discrimination between proclaiming the gospel and applying the gospel. Although some call application of the Christian message "the social gospel" or "liberal," it is just as important as evangelism in the life of the believer, he said.

Jimmy Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, said he sees a new

spiritual hunger and awakening in the world. While modern man may reject the witness at his door, he's constantly turning his television dial, Allen said. He feels the church should use the media as an electronic arm to reach those it could not otherwise reach.

Joel Gregory, pastor of Gambrell Street Baptist Church, Fort Worth, said institutionalized religion wears on the vitality of the church. The way to avoid this institutionalization is to engage in a healthy self-criticism of ourselves and our churches, he said.

W. Oscar Thompson, assistant professor of evangelism at Southwestern, said the number one priority in a Christian life is to bear fruit. Distinguishing between leaves and fruit, Thompson said man will have to account for his fruit, not his leaves. He said baptisms, budgets and buildings are leaves. They can be used for evaluation and measurement but fruitfulness in the Christian life is achieved by reproducing the character of Christ.

"Fruit is nothing more than the life and ministry of Christ," Thompson said.

Dilday did not formally address the conference but moderated all ses-

Mother-Daughter Weekend To Feature Missionaries

A mother-daughter Weekend Camp will take place at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, April 18-19. The camp is for girls in grades 1-3 and their mothers.

Speakers for the program include missionaries, Mrs. Jerry White, Korea; Mrs. James E. Young, Bangladesh; and Mrs. Don Redmond, Costa Rica.

Campers need to bring sheets, pillow, blankets, washcloth, towel, soap, personal items, sports clothes, Bible and Discovery magazine.

Pre-registration deadline is April 14.



Write Waudine Storey, Woman's Missionary Union, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205. Cost is \$12 per person.

Registration begins at 4 p.m. on Friday, April 18. Supper is served at 6 that evening. Camp closes after the noon meal the next day.

Three Associations Plan Interfaith Meets

Three Baptist associations are holding Interfaith Witness Conferences in early April each featuring a session on the Unification Church to be led by Eunice (Mrs. Hollis) Bryant of Jackson. Each meeting will take place 7-9 p.m.

Covington/Jeff Davis Association will hold its meeting April 7 at the associational office. Winston Association will meet April 8 and April 8 at a place yet to be determined by director of missions Jerry Stephens. And Sharkey/Issaquena Association will meet April 10 and April 11 at First Baptist Church, Rolling Fork.

The Covington/Jeff Davis meeting will include sessions on Jews led by Peter Chen, Christian Science led by Lloyd Whyte, and Catholics led by Luther C. Newell, Jr.

The Winston meeting will feature Mormons and Eastern Religions led by Chen, and Jehovah's witnesses led by Lloyd Whyte.

Sharkey/Issaquena's features include Mormons led by Chen, and Jehovah's witnesses led by Whyte.

Campers On Mission Rally Planned

Mississippi's Chapter of Campers on Mission Spring Campout will be held March 28-30, at Boone's Camp, 12 miles south of Columbia on Highway 43. All campers are invited to attend and take advantage of a week-end of singing, group meetings, fellowship, and spiritual renewal.

Another Obscenity Law Erased By Supreme Court

(Continued from page 1)

using the facilities from time to time have been the Rotary Club, a Weight Watchers group, and various non-affiliated religious organizations.

Kenneth R. Yott, claiming membership in the "Church That Is Christ's Body," had argued throughout his

Boys Camp Needs Staff

Royal Ambassador Camp is hiring summer staff. The camp program for Baptist boys needs assistant directors, an assistant manager, counselors, activity instructors, and manager's staff.

All summer staff will work from June 2 to August 15, 1980.

Assistant directors need to be college juniors or seniors with prior camp experience, and will deal with counselors in developing leadership and counseling skills.

The assistant manager will work in maintenance and help coordinate work of other staffers. Counselors work with 10 campers each session. Activity instructors work in one of these program areas: water sports, riflery, archery, and horseback riding. Manager's staff care for buildings, grounds, animals and services in the camp operations.

Assistant directors and assistant manager receive \$90 per week. The others will receive \$60 per week. All staff receive a room and board.

Contact Rusty Griffin, care of Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

Mississippi Baptist Activities

Mar. 30 High Attendance Night in Church Training (CT Emphasis)
Mar. 31-Apr. 4 Ephesians Four Conferences; in every association; 7:00-9:00 p.m. (CT)
Apr. 4-5 Royal Ambassadors' Congress, Mississippi College, Clinton, 3:00 p.m., 4th-1:30 p.m., 5th (BRO)

Youth Speakers' Tourney Develops Verbal Skills

Youth Speakers' Tournament is an opportunity for older youth, grades 10-12 to develop skill and confidence in expressing their commitment verbally.

Each participant should be an active member of a Church Training youth group. The tournament is designed to stimulate Christian growth.

Preparation helps in rules for speech writing and delivery can be found in the leaflet, "Youth Speakers' Tournament 1980" available from the Mississippi Church Training Department.

Young people are asked to begin preparation now and to attend the Youth Speakers' Tournament on May 10, 10:00 a.m. at the Broadmoor Baptist Church in Jackson. At the tournament groups of fewer than 10 will be judged to determine finalists. The two top winners of each group will be judged and an overall winner selected.

The finalists, except for the winner, will be invited to a Gulfshore Baptist Assembly Youth Conference. The Church Training department will pay costs (no travel expense).

The overall winner will have the opportunity to represent the state at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Glorieta, New Mexico, during the week of July 5-11, 1980. The Training department will reimburse travel expenses and conference costs of the representative.

The parents and/or church of the state winner are totally responsible for providing transportation to and from Glorieta and for providing an adult counselor for the speaker as required by the conference center.

Garrison To Retire As Georgia Exec

ATLANTA (BP) — Searcy S. Garrison, executive secretary-treasurer of the Georgia Baptist Convention executive committee since 1955, has announced his retirement effective Dec. 31, 1980.

Garrison made the surprise announcement to the Georgia Baptist executive committee, which had last year asked Garrison to continue in office through 1982, when he would reach age 70.

However, Garrison told the executive committee: "I am persuaded that it's a part of wisdom for me to step aside according to the established policy of the executive committee and the convention." That policy says that employees may retire at 65 but must retire at the end of the calendar year in which they reach 68. Garrison will be 68 in November.

Garrison has been chief administrative officer for Georgia Baptists longer than any other executive secretary in Georgia history. He came to the position Jan. 1, 1955, from the pastorate of Bull Street Baptist Church in Savannah and president of the Georgia Baptist Convention.

From 1955 through 1979 annual Cooperative Program gifts from Georgia Baptists have increased from \$1.8 million to \$12.7 million.

During Garrison's tenure the Georgia Baptist Convention has completed four major capital improvement and endowment programs, with a fifth program now underway. Seven Baptist student centers have been constructed in Georgia, two assembly operations have been developed, and a \$6 million Baptist center in northeast Atlanta was built.

lengthy legal appeal that one of the principal tenets of his faith is not to affiliate with any group that includes "non-believers."

When a union agreement reached in 1968 required all of the giant aerospace plant's employees to join the union, Yott refused and was dismissed in early 1969. Under previous labor agreements, workers already at the California Rockwell facility had been given the option of joining the union.

Yott's attorney argued in a written statement asking high court review of the case that his client proposed three options to the company, all of which were refused. He was willing to be assigned to a job outside the union agreement's coverage, to be excepted or "grandfathered" from the union security clause, or to be reinstated in his old job at a pay rate equal to that of other employees after payment of union dues.

The only alternative offered by the company, Yott insisted, was that he pay a sum equivalent to the monthly union dues to a charity of his choice, an option he rejected.

The assistant manager will work in maintenance and help coordinate work of other staffers. Counselors work with 10 campers each session. Activity instructors work in one of these program areas: water sports, riflery, archery, and horseback riding. Manager's staff care for buildings, grounds, animals and services in the camp operations.

Assistant directors and assistant manager receive \$90 per week. The others will receive \$60 per week. All staff receive a room and board.

Contact Rusty Griffin, care of Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3
Thursday, March 27, 1980

Texans Elect Schmeltekopf

DALLAS (BP) — E. Edward Schmeltekopf, pastor of First Baptist Church, Burleson, Texas, has been elected assistant to the executive director of the Texas Baptist executive board.

Effective April 7, the 47-year-old pastor will assist Texas Baptist Executive Director James H. Landes as resource person and liaison officer.

He succeeds Richard T. McCartney who was interim assistant while he directed the public relations office before becoming editor of the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger and director of public relations for Oklahoma Baptists last December.

Schmeltekopf, a native of Kyle, Texas, has been pastor of the Burleson church since 1961, and, since 1976, has also served as adjunct professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Smith, Thompson To Lead Music Weeks At Gulfshore

Two clinicians will lead Mississippi's first annual Instrumental Conference at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly on July 9-12, 1980. The conference, sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Church Music department, will feature Douglas Smith, band instrument clinician, and R. E. Thompson, handbell clinician.

Douglas Smith, associate professor of church music at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, will conduct the mass band and will teach an advanced brass class. Full band sacred concert numbers will be rehearsed and presented by the mass band. Small brass and woodwind ensembles will be featured during worship services.

R. E. Thompson, minister of music at Calvary Baptist Church in New Orleans, will conduct the mass handbell group and will teach an advanced handbell techniques class. Thompson is handbell specialist with the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

All band instruments players should bring their instruments (except large percussion instruments). Handbell

ringers should bring all equipment needed, including bells and tables. The Church Music department will provide the music to be used at the conference. There will be a small fee for music packets.

Special interest classes in music theory, sharing your faith, dating, and beginning guitar will be offered. Worship services and recreation will finish out the schedule.

Participants may attend individually if their church's entire ensemble or handbell group cannot attend. The cost for the conference is \$45.00 per person.

An informative brochure on Gulfshore, which includes a reservation request form, is available from the Assembly and/or the Church Music department. Further information on the conference may be obtained from the Church Music Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Reservations for the conference opened March 1. Reservations must be mailed directly to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss., 39571.

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March 31 DESOLO Longview Heights	April 1 PANOLA Oma	April 2 RIVERSIDE Cherry Street	April 3 TATE Mt. Zion	Conference Leader Therman Prosser Memphis, TN
LAFAYETTE Temple Heights	MARSHALL Holly Springs, FBC	TIPPAH Ripley	BENTON Ashland	Gil Brink Jefferson City, MO
PONTOTOC West Heights	UNION COUNTY Hillcrest	ALCORN Calvary	TISHOMINGO New Prospect	Jim Thomas Jefferson City, MO
LEE West Jackson St.	PRENTISS Mt. Olive	MONROE Gregory Chapel	ITAWAMBA Trinity	Harold King Chicago, IL
GRENADE Emmanuel	YALOBUSHA Coffeeville, FBC	CALHOUN Bruce, FBC	CHICKASAW Houston, FBC	John Hendrix Nashville, TN
BOLIVAR Immanuel	SUNFLOWER Indiana, FBC	TALLAHATCHIE Charleston, FBC	QUITMAN Marks, FBC	Don Mauldin Brentwood, TN
LEFLORE Calvary	HOLMES Lexington, FBC	MONTGOMERY N. Winona	CARRROLL North Carrollton	Edith McInnes Nashville, TN
LOWNDES Fairview	OKTIBBEHA Meadowview	CLAY West End	NOKURIE Macon, FBC	Mike Morrow Nashville, TN
WEBSTER Eupora, FBC	CHOCTAW Acharum	NESHORA E. Philadelphia	KEMPER Blackwater	Dan Fowler Nashville, TN
WINSTON E. Louisville	ATTALA Baptist Bldg.	LEAKE Trinity	HUMPHREYS Belmont, FBC	Vernon Cole Middletown, KY
WASHINGTON Calvary	RANKIN McLaurin Heights	SHARKEY-ISSA Rolling Fork, FBC	YAZOO Yazoo City, FBC	Bill Latham Nashville, TN
HINDS-MADISON Daniel Mem.	WARREN Highland	SCOTT Forest	SMITH Taylorsville, FBC	Nolan Huntington Nashville, TN
LAUDERDALE Southside	NEWTON Beulah	JASPER Bay Springs	LANAR Bellevue	Matt Nevils Chattanooga, TN
WAYNE Baptist Center	CLARKE Baptist Center	JONES Ellisville, FBC	LAWRENCE Bethel	Waldo Woodcock Atlanta, GA
GEORGE Southside	GREENE Pine Level	LEBANON 38th Ave.	FRANKLIN Ransom	Norman Hodges Nashville, TN
SIMPSON Mendenhall, FBC	COPIAH Shady Grove	LINCOLN Easthaven	UNION Fort Gibson	Tommy Dine Nashville, TN
MARION N. Columbia	WALTHALL Union	COVINGTON-JEFF D.	PIKE E. McComb	George Caldwell Foley, ALA.
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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

A chapter ends . . .

Former editor Joe Odle passes

The death of Joe T. Odle this week closes a chapter in the history of Mississippi Baptists. During his 17 years as editor of the Baptist Record, his three years as associate executive secretary before that, and his 13 years as a Mississippi pastor he made a profound impression on the Baptist work in the state.

He was loved by Baptists throughout the state. He was known throughout the state and all across the nations for his firm theological position, and he was highly esteemed by all who knew him, for he maintained his position in love.

We were not much alike, he and I; yet he was one of the finest friends that I have ever had. Our paths crossed 20 years ago as we both embarked on careers with Baptist state papers. In 1959 he became the editor of the Baptist Record and I became the associate

editor of the Baptist Standard in Texas.

In 1973, after I had served two years as editor of the California Southern Baptist, it became apparent that because of the vast distance from other family members, our children and our parents, we would have to try to get closer to the family hub. It was apparent that we would be needed in a closer proximity. We left California, and I became editor and publisher of three small weekly newspapers in Texas, but the desire to return to the state paper field was strong. In 1974 Joe Odle opened the door, and I came to the Baptist Record to succeed Joe Abrams as associate editor. Three great men played key roles in this career that has meant so much to me. They were David M. Gardner and E. S. James in Texas and Joe Odle in Mississippi. Each gave me the opportunity of be-

coming involved in Baptist state paper work, and I consider those times outstanding events of my career. Then, of course, the crowning aspect of the career came with the invitation of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, on the recommendation of Earl Kelly, executive secretary, to become the editor of the Baptist Record. That would not have happened, however, had it not been for the willingness of Joe Odle to pave the way for me to return to this field.

Surely no one could have been more supportive of his successor and more interested in his successor's success than was Joe Odle. He didn't visit the office often; but when he did, it was always to pass along words of encouragement and commendation. He was always welcome in the offices of the Baptist Building and in the offices of the Baptist Record.

These are personal observations, but at a time such as this, personal feelings come to the front. I have lost a dear and treasured friend. My loss, of course, is not nearly as great as that of his family; but it is keenly felt, nevertheless.

But the time had come for him to move on to the rewards that were being held in trust for his extraordinary service in the Lord's Kingdom. There is nothing left for us to do but to say "Amen" and to praise the Lord for his service and for our opportunity of being involved in it.

Surely we grieve with the family, but we confidently look forward to that day when "God shall wipe away all tears . . . and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away." —DTM



Book Reviews

ONE FAMILY'S JOURNEY by Walter A. Skupien, Jr. (Printed by Lewis Printing Services, Pascagoula, 68 pp., \$4) Order from the author at 127A Sherwood Circle, Ocean Springs, MS 39564. Walter Skupien always had a dream of taking off a year from work, and traveling all over the United States in a van. His wife Linda was ready for such an adventure, too, so when he was 34 and she was 30, they said, "Let's do it." Both were employees of a Pascagoula newspaper, and lived in Ocean Springs. Skupien reported later, "It was a time of seeking out new experiences and new friends. It was a year of self-fulfillment and learning."

The story of how the couple saved enough money to "make do" for a year without salary and of how they "furnished" an old van sets the scene for the beginning of their adventure. With their five-year-old son, Walt, they traveled from Mississippi to Mt. Desert Island, Maine, and then home again for a visit before heading west. With a year off from work, they could stay two days or two weeks at a campground, as the mood struck them. Some of the travel anecdotes are humorous; others are inspiring; all are well-written. Young Walt's reactions to various events are entertaining. Descriptions of Big Bend National Park, Yosemite in the snow, Death Valley, and San Francisco are unusually good, but the whole book is well worth reading, not only for those who like to camp, but for all who want to know about America and its people. The Skupiens are Southern Baptists.

CHARACTERISTICS OF A CARING HOME by H. Norman Wright and Rex Johnson (Vision House, paper, \$2.95, 127 pp.) The authors tell how to develop relationships that can turn a home into a caring home. They define a caring home as one in which the members accept one another even when they disagree, respect one another, provide mutual support in times of stress, express their affection for one another, and share their joy and pain with one another. They give illustrations of these characteristics, from events in their own family lives. The book is well-written, well-organized, easy to read.

STILL WATERS by W. Phillip Keller (Fleming H. Revell, \$6.95, 159 pp.) The author's search for a secluded spot where he could live simply and enjoy writing led him to "Still Waters," a rustic cottage beside a tranquil mountain lake. His book captures

the wonders of God's creation — the lake, the wind, the fish, the birds, the seasons, the mountains, the canyons. The description in each chapter is like an exquisite painting. A black and white drawing illustrates each chapter. This beautiful book is a celebration of the beauty of God's world. And it is an invitation to the reader to discover the outdoor inspiration that is still available, even in the 20th century.

MAKING FRIENDS FOR CHRIST by Wayne McDill (Broadman, paper, \$3.50, 120 pp.) McDill, a Baptist pastor in Oregon, formerly worked in evangelism division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He says that a poll of 8,000 laypersons indicated that 70 to 90 percent of people who are in church are there because of the influence of friends of family members. He states, "That's an excellent clue as to where the church's primary efforts in evangelism should be." The subtitled "A Practical Approach to Relational Evangelism," and the books is just that, written in easy-to-read style. One of the best chapters is "The Miracle Key," how to unlock another's life to your influence for Christ.

Luke Williams Joins Radio-TV Staff

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Luke E. Williams Jr., for 18 years director of church activities at First Baptist Church, San Antonio, has been named executive vice president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, effective April 15. He will be an assistant in internal administration to commission President Jimmy R. Allen with whom he worked 12 years when Allen was pastor of First Baptist, San Antonio. A former president of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association, Williams has served churches in Fort Worth, Jacksboro, Dallas and San Antonio, Texas; Chattanooga, Tenn., and Birmingham, Ala. He has been director of church activities at First Baptist Church, San Antonio, since May 1962.

Williams, 54, graduated from the University of Chattanooga and holds master of religious education and doctor of sacred music degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has served on the committee on boards for the Southern Baptist Convention and is a past chairman of the SBC committee on committees.

House Bill 978 . . .

Mississippi belongs to its citizens

House Bill 978 is alive in the Legislature and threatening the well being of Mississippi. We Baptists can stop it in its tracks if we will.

HB 978 is the insidious one that would allow liquor to be sold in the dry section of a city if part of the city were in a wet area.

The bill goes into a painful effort to explain that it can apply only in those cities that allow the sale of liquor, that are the county seats of counties that allow the sale of liquor, and the corporate limits of the cities go beyond the county lines where liquor is legal into counties where it is not.

The bill was written to set up a situation whereby a new motel in Hattiesburg, now being built in the dry portion of the city in Lamar County, could serve liquor. It is just about beyond comprehension that the Legislature would be called upon to make a decision about changing the law of the state to accommodate this one motel. It is entirely beyond comprehension that the House of Representatives would go along and pass such a bill. Such disregard for the electorate in a county defies understanding.

But please understand this: The bill does not mention Hattiesburg. Its in-

tent is to create such a situation in Hattiesburg, but the city is not mentioned. This means that if the law should be passed, if the same condition should prevail in any other city in the state, then the same situation would apply.

The bill is contrary to the law of the state. It is so bold as to make this statement in its text. It opens by piously explaining what the liquor law is and that it is to be enforced vigorously, except, it says, where the conditions outlined prevail. Thus the bill admits that its provision would go outside the law. This points up the fact that liquor interests have little regard for the law.

Liquors interests have little regard for anything except money. It is evident that there is no concern for the misery that the product causes or the laws that have to be established to try to keep that misery as low as it ever is possible. As was stated, Baptists can stop this bill in its tracks. There are enough of us to do this. Every Baptist in the state, except those who have liquor interests, should write their senators immediately.

The bill has been assigned to the Senate Finance Committee. The mem-

bers of that committee are Ellis Bodron, Warren; Con Maloney, Hinds; Bill Alexander, Bolivar; Wayne Burkes, Hinds; James L. Caldwell, Copiah; Lawrence, Simpson; William W. Canon, Lowndes; Aubrey M. Childre, Rankin; Algie Davis, Kemper; Lauderdale, Neshoba; J. D. Gresham, Issaquena, Washington; John E. Johnson, Itawamba, Monroe; Paul Richard Lambert, Forrest; Billy D. Lancaster, Carroll; Choctaw, Montgomery, Webster; John Edwin Lee, Newton, Scott; Malcolm Mabry, Coahoma, Tunica; Ollie Mohamed, Humphreys, Madison, Yazoo; Joe Mulholland, Neshoba, Noxubee, Winston; William C. Rhodes, Jackson; Vince Scoper, Jones; George Smith, Harrison; Martin T. Smith, Hancock; Pearl River; and John Waldrup, Ben-

ton, Pontotoc, Union. Last week Senator Wayne Burkes of Hinds County told the Baptist Record that a subcommittee chairman told Burkes that his bill to lower the blood alcohol content in the body for assumption of drunkenness died in that subcommittee because there had been no outside interest. That is not completely true, for the Baptist Record

had a letter in support of the bill on the desk of every senator on the larger committee. The point is, however, that Baptists in Mississippi had not provided the support that the bill needed to pass. We could have done it. We didn't. We must not fail in the case of HB 978. This is a bill that defies the law. There are good men in the Legislature. They are fighting hard. We must not let those with special interests gain control. The liquor interests are heartless and can be defeated only by the will of the people who dare to act.

Thank God, the bill that would have allowed liquor advertising died in committee. Thank God, the bill that would allow county officials to designate restaurants for the sale of liquor was recommitted. Regrettably, all of the several blood alcohol content bills died in committee. They have for the past three years. There has to be a reason for this. Only Mississippi allows drunks to drive on the highways. Why does it continue? Next year we Baptists must see that it stops.

The state belongs to all of its citizens, not to the Legislature only. We must all participate in its well being, or we will see that well being eroded.

Clarke College . . .

Mississippi Baptists hold the key

According to reports from officials of the administration of Clarke College, support for the college dropped off drastically when it was announced that the Southern Baptist Education Commission was being asked to study the situation at Clarke College to see how its ministry might be improved.

It seems that many people thought that the study was to be an easy way of saying that the college had no purpose to serve and therefore should be closed. This is not the case. It will be remembered that the request for the study came as a joint recommendation from the Mississippi Baptist Christian Education Commission and the Clarke College Board of Trustees. It is not likely that either of these bodies would have proposed measures that they felt would result in closing the college.

Readers will recall that subsequently both the Mississippi Baptist

Convention Board and the Mississippi Baptist Convention accepted the recommendation without a dissenting vote in either body.

No. If Clarke College is closed it will be Mississippi Baptists who close it. As long as Baptists in this state support the college, there is no study or deliberative body going to close it.

How does one support a college? The main basis of support is in the sending of young people as students. If there are students in sufficient numbers going to school there, the extra money that is needed will be forthcoming.

Then why would a family send its young people to a Baptist junior college? The answer is because of the

type of education the young people will receive there. There is no question but that many high school graduates can enter into the college atmosphere and discipline more easily at a junior college than at a four-year school.

But there are tax-supported junior colleges that are less expensive, one might say. Surely this is not to be denied. The discussion, however, must return to the question of what type of education the family wants for its young people. What they would receive at a tax-supported junior college would be top quality. Let there be no misunderstanding of that. The added dimension that comes from education on a Baptist-supported college, be it

two-year or four-year level, is in the Christian perspective that is a part of it. This Christian perspective is not to be found in greater evidence anywhere than at Clarke.

So the fate of the college, now as it has been always, is in the hands of Mississippi Baptists. Decisions should not be made on a basis of feeling that the college should be saved so the family's children should be sent there. Rather they should be made on the basis of feeling that the family wants its children to have the Christian education that is available there.

If there is ample evidence of that need for service, Clarke College will continue to serve.

Letters To The Editor

Concern For Poverty

Editor: A story which appeared in the March 6 edition has created much concern for me. First of all, I do appreciate our Baptist Record and thanks to all who make it possible for us to enjoy a paper of this nature.

Also, I want very much to thank Home Missions Editor Walker Knight for his interest in the Bailey King story on poverty. Once again we as Southern Baptists have been made aware of the hunger that exists right here in our own state of Mississippi.

As a member of Parkhill Baptist Church and active in WMU, I have strong concern for Home Missions. Hopefully the needs of the Bailey King family will not be overlooked.

Mrs. May Helen Ramsay Jackson

Thank you for your letter and your concern. The story on the King family was intended to call attention to the hunger that is to be found throughout our nation as well as all over the world. The King family was used only as an illustration to call attention to the plight. There are many, many others

besides the Kings, as HOME MISSIONS Editor Walker Knight said, "This is not a story of Mississippi poverty any more than it is of Maryland or Alaska poverty."

Actually, the BAPTIST RECORD was hesitant about carrying the story because of its sensitive nature regarding a Mississippi family. It was circulated throughout the nation by Baptist Press, however, and several other state papers carried it. We felt that because it was a condition that existed in Mississippi, and because it involved a Mississippi family, and because it had become known throughout the nation we must present the story to Mississippi Baptists also. —Editor

Student Commitment

Editor: The recent issues that were discussed at our Southern Baptist Convention, were of great interest to me. One of those issues was not only interesting but was also amusing. You will remember that there was a great deal of discussion about our seminaries and the professors in those seminaries. I got the impression that our seminaries were getting the credit for turning out

"liberal" preachers. While it is true we are affected by what we see and hear, as a student at New Orleans Seminary, I feel the problem is not so much with our professors, as it is with the students themselves.

When I arrived on the campus at New Orleans, I was shocked at the language and the life styles of many of the students.

You can take a student who is not committed to the cause of Christ, send him to the best seminary in the world and the odds are that he still will not be committed to the cause of Christ. He may be polished in his approach but it's the commitment that counts.

I have been happy with my time at New Orleans and deeply impressed with the sincerity of my professors. Joe Lofton

Having been just two weeks ago in this company of many of the students from Mississippi at New Orleans Seminary, I must say I don't share your lack of optimism. I judged the group to be made up of responsible young people. I would expect that the impact of the professors on

the lives of these young people will leave its mark, and through the years you may be amazed at the dedication and commitment that you will find. —Editor

Appreciation For Conference

Editor: I want to say how great the conference on "Women in the Church" was. My husband and I attended every session and found it very enlightening. The Staggs' talks were particularly helpful. We appreciate their scholarly approach very much.

It was so refreshing to hear women affirmed as persons. Since the conference, I have been studying anew what Jesus did and said regarding women. I'd like to thank the Christian Action Commission for sponsoring the conference.

Mrs. Joyce C. Rogers Harpersville

Appreciation From South Dakota

Editor: Thank you and the fine people of Mississippi for providing me with the good news of home. Knowing that I will be refreshed upon receiving the Baptist Record, I always look forward to each edition. The Record has been one source of keeping up with the events, the work, and the progress of Mississippi Baptists.

Please continue the excellent reporting of that which is taking place among the churches of our land. Continue to keep the Baptists of Mississippi informed on the vital issues of our day. Pray for our work here in the Northern Plains area as the Lord uses each of us in His service.

May the Lord continue to bless you and the staff of the Baptist Record. May He continue to use your paper for His Great work.

Marion W. Gray, Sr. Edgemont, S.D.

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Hunger Consultant Post Receives HMB Funding

ATLANTA (BP)—Funding for a national consultant on domestic hunger and disaster relief has been approved at the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"We have approved funding for nine months and hope to be able to bring a person to you for appointment by June," Executive Director-Treasurer William G. Tanner told directors at the board's Spring meeting. He added that creation of the consultant position in Christian social ministries does not require board approval, but that appointment of a person to fill the job does.

"I'm happy to tell you this news, I believe we need to get on with the business of reaching out to the people of this land," he said. "Domestic hunger has an innocuous sound; it slips off the tongue, but it is one of the most serious, critical, urgent and pressing needs of our land. People are hungry, suffering, malnourished."

He added: "I know we cannot feed

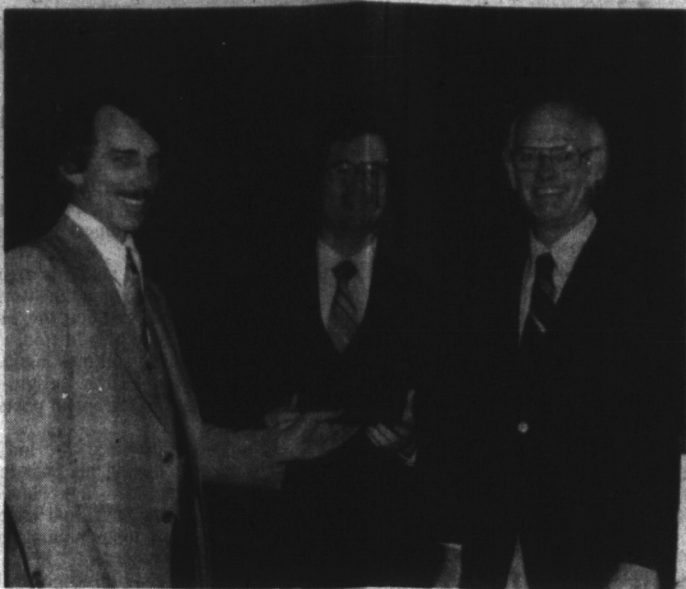
the nation, but we can light a light."

Tanner reported to directors that letters have been mailed to all of the members of the U.S. Congress, urging them to fund and implement a domestic hunger survey. "The letters were sent at your direction," he said, recalling a unanimously adopted resolution at the October 1979 meeting.

In response to the reminder about domestic hunger, directors also approved plans for a "voluntary" observance of the hunger issue at their Summer meeting — scheduled for July. Directors were urged to miss the noon meal and to contribute the funds to hunger relief.

Tanner said creation of the consultant position recognizes the authority of the Scripture. "God's word demands that we be advocates of the poor and hungry,

"I don't know all we can do, but I know that we can do more than we are doing," he added.



Ron Elzey, Church Training Director of First Church, Pascagoula, is the recipient on behalf of the church of a plaque recognizing this as the leading church in Mississippi during 1978-79 in Baptist Doctrine study awards. Making the presentation is Bob Gray, Minister of Education, with Norman Rodgers consultant in adult work on the staff of the Mississippi Church Training Department looking on. This church ranked third in the Southern Baptist Convention in this awards category.

Thursday, March 27, 1980

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

First Church, Pascagoula Leads Baptist Doctrine Study Awards



Pictured above is Director of Missions Joel Ray presenting to the staff of First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, a plaque awarded by the Church Training department as special recognition for the church's ranking second in the state in 1978-79 in Baptist Doctrine Study awards. This church tied with West Heights, Pontotoc, for this honor. Pictured are the pastor Brooks Wester, Church Training director David Owen, Ray, and Minister of Education Farrell Blankenship.

Status Of Two Hospitals Kept Under FMB Review

By Susan Cahan

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)—A hospital evaluation team has commended Southern Baptist hospitals in the Middle East and Southern Asia for improvements made in the last two years but urged that the status of two of the hospitals be kept under review.

The team also recommended that the overseas division of the Foreign Mission Board make a careful study of the future of health care ministries overseas because of the ever-increasing need for financial subsidies to hospitals and the acute shortage of medical and paramedical personnel.

J. D. Hughey, secretary for Europe and the Middle East, reported the team's findings to the Foreign Mission Board during its March meeting. The team, which included Hughey, made its initial survey trip in October 1977 and its follow-up evaluation in late 1979.

The hospital in Ajloun, Jordan, will continue as a 30-bed primary care unit subject to review, Hughey said. Efforts will be made to continue at the Gaza hospital, he added, but an improved financial picture is needed at both institutions for them to continue.

Although medical ministries in Yemen and India were also included in the survey, the most dramatic changes were recommended for the Ajloun and Gaza hospitals. At Ajloun

the hospital reduced the number of beds from 50 to 30 and closed its school of nursing after the 1977 survey. The Gaza hospital underwent major renovations to change its posture from mostly surgical to general.

The two most pressing problems facing the hospitals are money and personnel, Hughey said. Hospital administrators and chaplains are needed in Jordan and Yemen. Nurses are needed everywhere, he said, but notably in Yemen where national nurses are not available.

The evaluation team called attention to the need for ever-increasing subsidies, Hughey said, and pointed out that hospitals must seek to generate local income. Otherwise, the team said, alternate forms of needed medical ministries, such as community health or service in non-Baptist institutions, must be sought.

The Ajloun hospital, which reduced its subsidy requirements in 1979, had to have more money in 1980 and its administrator estimates the hospital will require a 15 percent annual increase just to keep the hospital going.

The high subsidy to the Gaza hospital was maintained in 1979 and increased \$10,000 in 1980. The evaluation team recommended that efforts be made to attain a financially feasible general hospital. One of the main reasons for continuing the hospital,

Hughey explained, is to provide practice opportunities for students in its school health sciences (mostly nursing).

The hospital in Jibla, Yemen, Hughey said, is rather primitive by American standards but is probably the best in Yemen. Although it is better supplied with doctors than it has been at any other time in its 12-year history, it needs a hospital administrator, several career nurses, a chaplain, a laboratory technologist and other support personnel.

The evaluation team commended the Jibla hospital staff for carrying a heavy load but encouraged them to upgrade, a necessity as medical care progresses in Yemen. Hughey noted that the hospital building there will probably need to be replaced in 10 years and questioned whether capital funds would be available when the time comes.

On the initial survey trip, Hughey said, the team urged each hospital to have a chaplain or chaplains (missionary and national) to provide leadership in spiritual functions. Recently national chaplains have been employed in Ajloun and Gaza.

The team also suggested that the hospital improve staff relationships, arrange times for continuing Bible study, evangelistic instruction and discipleship classes; and emphasize

personal evangelism.

"The hospitals have made possible a Christian witness by Baptists in areas where no other way was likely to be found," Hughey said. He added that the three hospitals in Middle East countries serve Muslim populations that are highly resistant to Christianity.

"Christianity is made attractive by our medical work," Hughey continued. "Our missionaries are 'doing the gospel' and are seizing many opportunities for verbalizing it. Some people are accepting Christ. Churches have been established in Jordan and Gaza."

No church has been established in Yemen, Hughey said, but he is confident that before the end of the century there will be Christian churches scattered across that land. Right now, he added, the only Christian service in Arabic in the entire country is the one held at the hospital on Sunday evenings.

Hughey did not comment on the team's recommendations for the hospital in Bangalore, India, since it is no longer under his administrative jurisdiction. But, Franklin T. Fowler, another team member and medical consultant for the board, said there were few major changes recommended for that hospital and the main comments were very favorable.

Five State Men Train For Ministry With Senior Adults

NASHVILLE — Five Mississippians have completed training at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center to become special consultants available to aid churches in starting or evaluating their ministries with senior adults.

A total of 100 persons participated in the training at the invitation of the senior adult ministry section of the Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

The group was headed by Kermit King, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention's church training department.

Others included Douglas Day,

Starkville; Harold Fleming, McComb; Cortez Hutchinson, Yazoo City; and Paul Lee, Tupelo.

"Through these consultants church leaders may get help from someone nearby to start a ministry with senior adults or to evaluate what they are doing and plan for the future," said Gary Hawk, senior adult consultant at the Sunday School Board.

Hawk said persons interested in securing the services of a special consultant should write him at the Sunday School Board, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, TN 37234, or write King at Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205.

Jakarta, Indonesia — The visa situation in Indonesia continues to cause concern for missionaries there as they are receiving only temporary visas until the government works out a long-range policy regarding missionary involvement. Starting in July 1979 some missionaries received six-month visas which could not be renewed. The situation improved during the fall, but now uncertainty in the government's position has returned.

Jibla, Yemen — Several American Christians working in Saudia Arabia for Arabian American Oil Co. paid their own way and took their vacation time to travel to the Jibla (Yemen) Baptist Hospital to make repairs necessary for upkeep of the compound. The men put a new roof on the outpatient department and operating room buildings, repaired a portion of the compound fence and made repairs to the electrical and telephone systems.

Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Hot Coffee



Versa Jordan, a Baptist Record reader who lives at Hot Coffee, wrote me a letter. "A long time ago," she said, "before there were any cars, people went to Ellsville to buy provisions. They travelled either in ox wagons or mule wagons. On these trips some of the people passed the home of a Mr. and Mrs. Davis who had a store. This couple wondered what they could do for the weary travellers. They decided to serve them hot coffee, and cookies that Mrs. Davis baked. A sign in the shape of a large coffee pot was put in front of the store so people would know to stop for refreshments. On it these words were written: HOT COFFEE. Since that time the community has been called Hot Coffee."

"Today Hot Coffee has about ten families, the Calhoun Baptist Church, and two stores — R. J. Knight's store and McDonald's Grocery. Calhoun School was once a part of this community, but several years ago the students were all transferred to Salem school."

On one of the warmest days we've had this spring, I drove to Covington County to take a look at Hot Coffee and to meet two Baptists who grew up there — Versa Jordan and R. J. Knight.

I found Versa at home in a trailer under a grove of tall pine trees, on a hill that would almost classify as a mountain. She lives alone, but her brother, Spurgeon Mayfield of Jackson, visits her often.

Versa told me that her grandfather, Stephen Mayfield, was once pastor of the Union Baptist Church, between Hot Coffee and Mt. Olive, and that her sister, Norma, is married to retired pastor, Barney Walker, of Jackson (Walker also was born at Hot Coffee.)

Her other living sister, Eva Lindow, lives in Houston, Texas.

Versa's church membership is at Union. In the past she taught Sunday School, Intermediates and Adults, and was active in WMU. "My health does not permit me to attend church now," she said. "Each Sunday I call myself going to TV church. I listen to Dr. Frank Pollard and enjoy it."

Her husband, Wiley Mack Jordan, died in 1966, the year after Versa retired from her job as a secretary at a tree nursery in Mt. Olive.

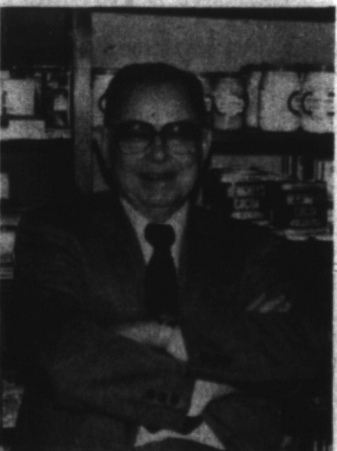


The afternoon I stopped by she was crocheting an afghan for a friend's baby. On the couch lay a larger afghan she had also made. "I like to do crossword puzzles, too," she said, "especially the ones in the Baptist Record." And she reads a lot. On her beautiful handmade, in-laid wood coffee table I saw two good books: *Heads Feet on High Places* by Hannah Hurnard and *In My Father's House* by Corrie ten Boom.

It was R. J. Knight (they call him



Calhoun Church at Hot Coffee is being remodeled, outside and inside. W. H. Merritt, the pastor, lives in the brick parsonage, about a mile from the church. Before the Calhoun Church moved to its present location it was at Belmont.



Dutch) who directed me to Mrs. Jordan's house. I dropped by his store to take a look at his coffee pot, which he said he bought in self-defense — to please the tourists who come from all over the USA.

His blue eyes twinkled as he told me about all the stores in his family. His grandfather owned a store on Leaf River, and all of his grandfather's ten children owned stores. His father, V. O., opened a store in Hot Coffee in the early 1900's, and owned a cotton gin that used to gin thousands of bales of cotton every year. Two of Dutch's four children are pharmacists and own or manage drugstores. (One son is a doctor and a daughter is married to an engineer.)

Now 60, Knight has lived at Mt. Olive for 50 years and has driven the 13 miles to Hot Coffee every morning for 50 years a week during those years. He and his wife are members of First Baptist

Church, Mt. Olive, and his wife is a school teacher.

As a boy, he was a member of the Calhoun Church at Hot Coffee. When he was 12, he started driving a wagon for his father, to pick up freight at Taylorsville. Once he lost a casket off the wagon, and didn't even know it until people started calling the store on the phone, wanting to know if there were a body in that casket in the middle of the road.

"There used to be a mill wheel on the creek on each side of town," he remembers.

The day was hot, so I accepted his offer of a Coke rather than a cup of coffee. His easygoing, good-humored, friendly, glad-to-be-of-service attitude helped me understand why this man has been successful operator of an old-fashioned country store.

If you drive through Covington County, don't miss Hot Coffee. And as Versa Jordan said to me, "May the Lord ride with you as you travel."



VIEWPOINT

Learning To Do Without

By John Alexander, Director, Stewardship Department, MBCB

Our generation has been described as one that wants everything and is satisfied with nothing. We are constantly told by the secular media that unless we have all of the modern gadgets, we are deprived, second-class citizens.

I was having lunch recently in a lovely home in the state when my host pointed to a new house across the way that cost \$350,000 to build. It was a beautiful structure. Most Americans would think any man able to own that kind of house had it made. Surely his days are filled with happiness. Guess what happened to the fellow the first week he lived in the new house? His wife walked out and left him!

Our nation's history, like the rest of the world, has been characterized by periods of prosperity and periods of poverty. This is the story of the world. It was Joseph who warned the Pharaoh of Egypt long ago to put up in the years of plenty enough to tide them over in the years of famine. Americans are acting today as if the years of plenty will last forever.

We have been warned repeatedly that our stores of natural resources are running low. The style of life we have known is on its way out. The beginning of the end from wastefulness and abuse of the earth is clearly in view. Most of the families of the world live on less per day than the average American family flushes down the disposal. We talk about the terror of genocide in Cambodia while we waste enough daily in this country to save the lives of every victim of communism in starving Cambodia!

We Americans are not accustomed to applying the brakes to what we can accumulate. Our peers have by precept and example taught us to get everything we can, and to keep for ourselves as much as we can of what we get.

Like all others, Christian people are easily caught in the money-trap. We mortgage our future for a little more of this world's goods. We sacrifice our health, our homes, and our families for a little more.

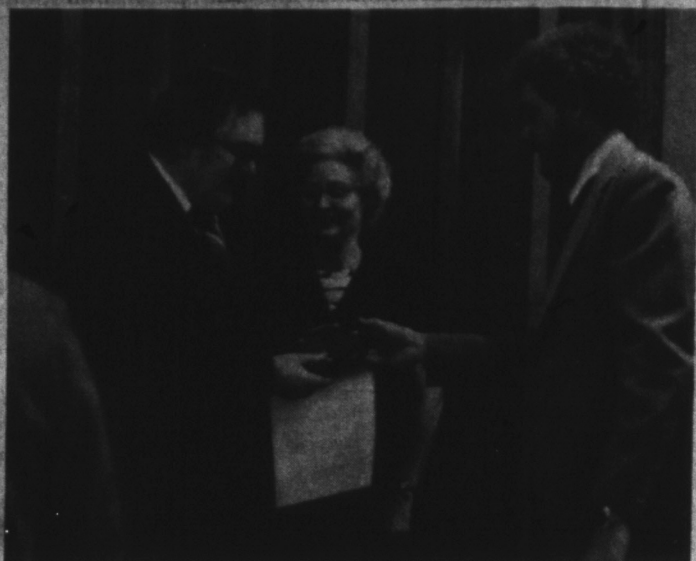
In some circles we venerate people purely on the basis of what they possess. James said, "My brethren, hold not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come into your meeting place a man with a gold ring, in fine clothing, and there come in also a poor man in vile clothing; and ye have regard to him that weareth the fine clothing, and say, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor man, Stand thou there, or sit under my footstool; do ye not make distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren; did not God choose them that are poor as to the world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he promised to them that love him? But ye have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you, and themselves drag you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme the honorable name by which ye are called? . . . but if ye have respect of persons, ye commit sin, being convicted by the law as transgressors" (James 2:1-9).

As Christians we need to learn the virtual worthlessness of the things of the world. We must have enough to live and provide for our families. It is the inordinate desire for material gain that can destroy us.

The Apostle Paul gave us good advice when he suggested, "But godliness with contentment is good gain: for we brought nothing into the world, for neither can we carry anything out; but having food and covering we shall be therewith content. But they that are minded to be rich fall into a temptation and a snare, and many foolish and hurtful lusts, such as drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil: which some reaching after have been led astray from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things . . ." (I Tim. 6:6-11).

"Be ye free from the love of money; content with such things as ye have: for himself hath said; I will in no wise fail thee; neither will I in any wise forsake thee" (Heb. 13:5).

Like you, I face this temptation every day. God help us both to escape the grasp of this lethal monster called materialism.



Bill Barnes, right, presents plaque and resolution to Dan and Mera Hall.

Music Conference Honors Dan Hall, Edwin McNeely

Members of the Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference met March 7 and 8 at Parkway Church, Jackson. Leon Bedsole, minister of music at First, Biloxi, is president of the group.

A banquet was held Friday evening, March 8, at Mississippi College. Though Dan Hall came to the banquet he did not know in advance that it had been planned in honor of him, to celebrate his 15th anniversary as director of the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Bill Barnes, minister of music, Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, read two resolutions of appreciation from the Music Conference — one for Hall and another honoring Edwin McNeely of Newton, retired, former music professor at Southwestern Seminary, Ft. Worth, Texas, for many years.

In part, the resolution honoring Hall stated:

"The Church Music Department of Mississippi has been favored of God to number in the forefront of its leadership God's own man in Mississippi, Dan C. Hall, who as director, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, has tirelessly and sacrificially given himself to the implementation of the department's every project and program; manifesting, in the process, a warm, loving and

selfless spirit in similitude to Christ.

"A Mississippi Baptists, every friend of Christ and His church, every lover of music, has been encouraged and blessed by the 15 and more years (since July 16, 1964) during which Dan Hall has immersed himself, his prayerful concern for spiritual need, his listening ear for human need, his obvious interest in people above programs, his emphasis upon music for evangelism and worship, in the cause of Christ.

"His distinguished service is documented by countless outstanding accomplishments, including:

(1) An increase in Mississippi Baptist ministers of music in local churches from 100 to more than 200...

(2) An increase in church music enrollment from 48,114 participants in 1964 with 783 churches reporting to 87,143 in 1979 with 1547 churches reporting.

(3) The organization and promotion of "The Singing Churchmen."

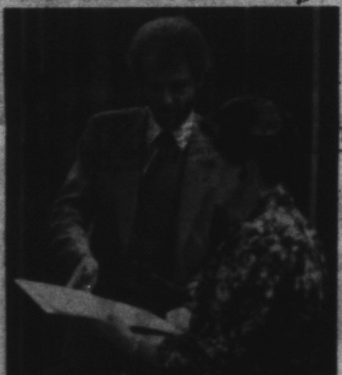
(4) The institution of specialist programs in music, including: handbells; children's choirs; keyboard; youth and adult choirs; instrumental groups.

(5) Enlargement and expansion of the staff in the state's Church Music department from one director and one secretary in 1964 to its 1979 level, including: a director, an administrative assistant, and two secretaries...

(6) Measurable progress in emphasizing the role of the smaller Mississippi church and the ministry of music in the state's rural churches.

"Despite a crowded schedule he has not neglected personal, spiritual exercise through his membership in Woodland Hills Baptist Church in Jackson, through loyalty to his attractive family and distinctively Christian home and through his involvement with organized missions on both pioneer and foreign mission fields.

"Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference expresses gratitude to God for the talented life of Dan C. Hall and for the energy and devotion which continue to typify his leadership."



Bill Barnes presents plaque and resolution to Mrs. Edwin McNeely, in honor of her husband.

European Seminary Elects Nashville Workshop Will Help Beginning Writers

RUSCHLIKON, Switzerland (BP) — C. Ronald Goulding of Great Britain has been elected interim president of the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, effective Sept. 1.

Goulding, who will be 65 in July, has been associate secretary in the Baptist World Alliance's Washington office since 1976. He is past president of the European Baptist Federation and was secretary-treasurer of the federation and associate secretary of the BWA in London, 1965-76.

Gerhard Claas of Hamburg, West Germany, secretary-treasurer of the European Baptist Federation and chairman of the seminary executive board, announced Goulding's election to the post for a period of up to three years. Goulding will replace Southern Baptist missionary Isam E. Balenger, who is resigning to devote more time to his post as the Foreign Mission Board's field representative for Europe.

Goulding will be the first European to hold the presidency of the seminary, founded by the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in 1949. The mission board transferred administrative responsibility for the seminary to a European board of trustees, under direction of the European Baptist Federation, in October 1978.

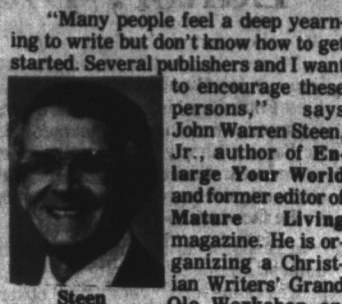
In recent years the seminary has had financial problems stemming from devaluation of the American dollar, coupled with inflation. Though financial problems continue, seminary officials said the school operated on a balanced budget in 1979. Southern

Baptists will contribute \$305,000 to operating costs this year and have pledged to continue support on a similar level.

The school has 52 students representing 19 countries around the world. All space is reserved for the September 1980 term. In addition, the seminary sponsor a summer institute of theological education, providing special courses for European pastors and laity.

Goulding has directed two major BWA programs during his past four years in Washington — a worldwide emphasis on evangelism and education and a million dollar annual goal for relief and development.

A native of Earlsfield, England, he was educated in both law and theology at Spurgeon's College in London. He was a pilot with the Royal Air Force during World War II and has served as pastor of several British Baptist churches. Mrs. Goulding is the former Freda Jarry, daughter of Baptist missionaries to India.



Steen

"Many people feel a deep yearning to write but don't know how to get started. Several publishers and I want to encourage these persons," says John Warren Steen, Jr., author of *Enlarge Your World* and former editor of *Mature Living* magazine. He is organizing a Christian Writers' Grand Ole Workshop on the campus of Belmont College, May 14-18, in Nashville, TN.

Abingdon Press has made available a five-volume *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* as an award to a person submitting the best non-fiction. Also at the Awards Banquet, another winner will receive from Thomas Nelson, Inc., a leather-covered study edition of the Open Bible. The Benson Company will present several albums of gospel music. These and other prizes will be available to anyone who enrolls and submits materials in various categories.

The faculty includes 13 Southern Baptists, five from the Sunday School Board.

"Only 20 Christian Writers' Conferences are offered in the USA — none in this area," Steen says. "I want people in the mid-South to have quality instruction. I've enlisted 20 faculty members who can help persons develop their God-given talents."

Steen is the son of life-time deacon, J. W. Steen, Sr., at the Jackson's First Baptist Church, and Mrs. Steen.

There is a March 31 deadline for submitting the total fee of \$140, which includes room, board, and a day's excursion to Opryland. Write Steen at 6511 Currywood Dr., Nashville, TN 37205.

Nairobi, Kenya — The first series of English-language Bible study materials to be printed at Baptist Publications, Nairobi, Kenya, has gone to press, said the editor, Southern Baptist missionary Laura Lee (Mrs. J. Jay) Stewart. The materials were developed especially for young people because Kenyan schools are taught in English.

Hazlehurst / Copiah Association Holds Successful Family Life Event

Led by the pastor, Robert Hanvey of First Church, Hazlehurst, the Evangelism Committee of the church, and the Executive Board of the Copiah Association, Baptists of the Hazlehurst area responded with an average attendance of about 400 per session to a recent Family Life Emphasis.

Following conferences for each family member, Bill Causey, president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and pastor of Parkway Church, Jackson, preached on "Family Life." Cecil Harper and Myrna Loy Hedgepeth, both of Jackson, were the music evangelists.

Conference leaders for adults were James Travis, Mrs. Annette Hitt and J. Clark and Margaret Hensley, all of Jackson, and George Lee of Columbia. Children's conference leaders are pictured above.

All the worship services of the week were broadcast. Attendance at Church Training on Sunday night exceeded the enrollment. Supper was served each evening preceding the sessions.

"The success of the event can be attributed to the excellent promotion spearheaded by Pastor Hanvey," said Eugene Roberts, Copiah director of

missions. "Newspaper advertising, flyers and radio announcements were used in addition to regular church and association mailouts. Members of non-Baptist congregations were also

extended special invitations."

The family life revival was co-sponsored by the Christian Action Commission, Mississippi Baptist Convention.



Children's conference leaders at the Hazlehurst event were, left to right: Mrs. Kay Ashley, Mrs. Mary Hinton, Mrs. Ann Armstrong, Mrs. Diane Mary, and Mrs. Nancy Roberts.

Arizona Editor Will Retire

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — For health reasons, C. L. Pair, seven years the editor of the *Baptist Beacon*, newspaper for Arizona Southern Baptists, will retire, April 30.

Pair, who will be 67 April 9, has developed a neuropathy from a 15-year history of diabetes that causes extreme pain, especially in stress situations.

Pair was pastor in Arizona for 11 years before he became editor of the 12,500 circulation weekly. He was a long-time pastor in East Texas before that.

A graduate of Louisiana State University, Pair also attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He expects to be involved in part time church staff work after retirement.

Court Strikes Down New Law

BOSTON (BP) — Massachusetts' highest court struck down the state's new "voluntary prayer" law just six weeks after it took effect.

The state's Supreme Judicial Court said the law, which required all public school teachers to daily ask a class volunteer to lead in public prayer and excused students who did not wish to participate, violated the U.S. Constitution's ban on an establishment of religion by the state.

Justice Herbert P. Wilkins, who wrote the decision, said the law "could not be saved from unconstitutionality by the fact that prayers were spoken by volunteer pupils or that pupils could choose to be excused from exercises."

Baptist Alumni Group Organizes At Delta State University

A committee of alumni of Delta State University who were active in the Baptist Student Union met recently in the Baptist Student Center at Delta State for the purpose of organizing a Baptist alumni group. The persons comprising the committee were selected in a meeting of Baptist alumni during the annual university homecoming activities in the 1979 fall semester.

At the recent meeting a constitution was drawn up to be presented to the Baptist alumni group at homecoming

Morrison Heights Will Use Drama With Easter Musical

The music ministry of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will present a dramatization of, "The Seven Last Words of Christ," by Theodore Dubois, March 30 and 31 at 7 p.m., at the church. This presentation will include drama with a cast of 22, choral music with a choir of 89, and orchestral accompaniment of 32 players from the Jackson Symphony.

"The Seven Last Words of Christ," revolves around the words spoken by Christ from the cross. All music is to be sung from memory. Choir members along with several committees, have been in preparation for this program since January 1.

The program incorporates the use of a scrim 50 feet wide and 30 feet tall. The drama behind the scrim is in still action with Centurions, John, the Beloved Disciple, Mary, the Mother of Jesus, Jesus, 2 thieves, and a narrator who plays the part of a prophet-priest. The choir is costumed in typical costumes of the first century. Also there will be a dramatization of Da Vinci's painting of, "The Last Supper."

The program is under the direction of Bill Barnes, minister of music. He and the pastor, Kermit McGregor, invite the public to attend this presentation.

Three church buses for sale.

Contact Richland Baptist Church, 949-4588 for details. Buses will be sold by sealed bids only. (We reserve the right to reject any or all bids.)

People-to-People Visits in ENGLAND

In many churches, on WLBT-TV and in this paper Christopher Russell, Baptist pastor from Camberley, England, invited Mississippians to England for home-based visits with a "cultural and Christian purpose." For details of the multi-national youth program June 18-July 8, 1980, and other opportunities, contact: Martha Nelson, Coordinator



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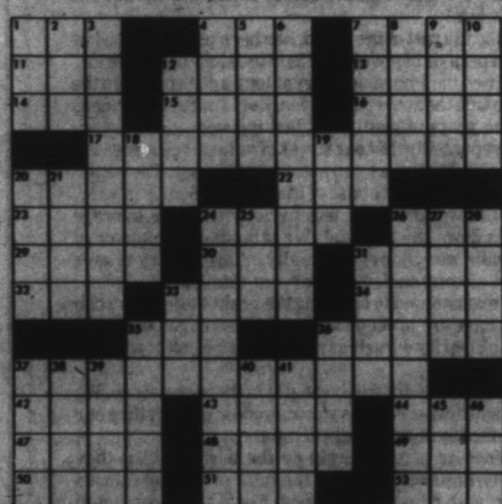
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48 The turmeric
50 Foretell
51 "into — mother's womb" (John 3)
52 Tennis term

DOWN

1 Bowth down (Isa. 46:1)
2 — carte
3 "according to his —" (2 Ki. 23)
4 Nimbus
5 Mimicked
6 "of the — of the hoofs" (Jer. 47)
7 An ungracious unattractive person
8 Outside: comb. form
9 "As — hast given him" (John 17)
10 "For of this —" (2 Tim. 3)
13 Cross
16 Short for gentleman
18 Total

20 Gospel writer
21 Girl's nickname
24 "and — unto heaven" (Dan. 4)
25 "on the east side of —" (Num. 34)
26 Seven (Rev. 18:4)
27 River in France
28 "I have — none" (1 Cor. 9:15)
31 American Indian
33 Hasten
35 Brief essay
36 Secret plan
37 Jesabel's husband (1 Ki. 16:30-31)
38 Famous fiddler
39 Smirk: oh.
40 Cross word (Mark 15:34)
41 O.T. book
45 Tiny
49 Consume

ACROSS

1 Flying mammal (Lev. 11:18)
4 Possesses
7 New York team
11 High note
12 Tense
13 To repeat
14 Slack
15 Tree genus
16 Suffix for agent
17 " — — — of the good treasure" (Matt. 12)
20 Measured
22 Use diligently
23 Man (Ezra 2:15)
24 "He wrote also letters to — on" (1 Chron. 32:17)
26 King (1 Chron. 18:9)

CRYPTOVERSE

FOR ZY-KM FZY JOXJEFKFKFXC

Today's Cryptoverse clue: Y equals E

(Answer on page 7)



Pictured left to right are Valorie Brewer, Lloyd Luncford, Carolyn Satterfield, Bobby Newson, and Penny Purvis.

Ebenezer Will Celebrate 160th Year

Ebenezer Church, Jeff Davis County, will celebrate its 160th anniversary Sunday, March 30. Homecoming plans include an 11 a.m. service followed by dinner on the church grounds and singing in the afternoon.

March 30 has also been set as Building Fund Day, the offering to go toward an addition to the pastorium.

Ralph Cranford, pastor, states that a special invitation is extended to all former pastors and former members.

Revival Dates

First Church, Waynesboro: March 30-April 2; Howard Benton, Eastside Church, Pearl, evangelist; Tom Larimore, Jackson, full-time music evangelist, music director; Robert Perry, pastor; services on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. at 12 noon, covered dish lunch and service, and at 7 p.m.

Cason (Monroe): March 30-April 4; at 7 nightly; Clarence Cooper, Sr., evangelist; Charlie Sanderson, music director; James Rutledge, pastor.

Locust Street Church (Pike): March 30-April 4; services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Sunday; at 7 p.m. Mon.-Fr.; David Millican, pastor of the South McComb Church, evangelist; Clifton Williams, minister of music at Carmel Church in Monticello, music leader; Thomas Wicker, pastor.

Crowder: March 30 - April 4; at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday; 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. daily; A. M. "Sonny" Moore, Ruleville, preacher; C. A. Southerland, Crowder, music director; Truman D. Scarborough, pastor.

Paul Church (Tallhatchie): March 30 - April 4; Easter week services; at 7 p.m.; Ray Grissett, consultant, Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Joe Young, pastor.

First Church, Houston: April 13-18; Gerald Buckley, pastor, Parkway Church, Natchez, evangelist; Truman Thompson, minister of music and youth, First Church, Lake Wales, Fla., music evangelist; Sunday services 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; weekday 12 noon, 7 p.m.; Ken Marler, pastor.

First Church, Lake: March 30 - April 4; regular services on Sunday; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.; Z. T. Winningham, pastor, Center Terrace Church, Canton, evangelist; Marzene Vance, music director; Wesley Miley, pastor.

Grace Church, Vicksburg: April 6-11; Henry Hight, pastor of Beacon Street Church, Philadelphia, evangelist, Dewey Moore, pastor.

Crestview Church near Petal: March 23-28; at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Mel McClellan, full-time evangelist from Pine Bluff, Ark., preaching; the evangelist, McClellan, and his wife Judy, singing during the services each night; Raymond Parkin, pastor.

Freney Church, Carthage: March 28-30; Dennis Smith, pastor, Lena Church, evangelist; Richard Cowart, student at New Orleans Seminary, music evangelist; Jesse Bennett, minister of music; Wade Chappell, pastor; services at 7 p.m.; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

BIBLE PUZZLE ANSWERS

BAT HAS METS
ELA RAPT ECHO
LAX OLEA TOR
AGOODMANT
METED PLY
ADIN RAIL TOU
RIOT EIN ENIS
KEN HANG RUSE
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ANDHEALED
HERE ELMO EWE
ARAM TOOT KEA
BODD HIS SET

"And he is the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 2:2).



DAVID HOLMES, DRUMMER, was among the accompanists for "The Kinsmen" during their concert at Queen's Court.

Joe Odle, Retired Record Editor, Dies In Jackson

(Continued from page 1)

Following his retirement he served several months as interim pastor of First Church, Gulfport, and eight months as interim pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Hawaii.

He was on the staff of First Baptist Church, Jackson, directing an outreach program, when he became ill. He was also teaching a course on Bible prophecy in Church Training.

Survivors are his wife and his mother, Mrs. Winona Ice, both of Jackson, and a daughter, Mrs. Roland Maddox of Memphis. There are two grandchildren.

Odle was a native of West Frankfort, Illinois. He was born in 1908. His father, Harry Odle, was a Baptist preacher who died when he was nine years of age. His son, Joe Thomas Odle, was also a Baptist preacher who died of Hodgkin's disease at age 20.

Odle became a Christian at 13 and joined Second Baptist Church, West Frankfort. He preached his first sermon when he was 15, and he was ordained by his home church two weeks after his 17th birthday.

While he was a senior in high school, Odle was pastor of a mission at Orient, Illinois. He was graduated from Union University, a Baptist institution in Jackson, Tenn.; and while he was a student there he was pastor of churches in Galloway and Rossville, Tennessee. He was pastor at Barlow and Bandana in Kentucky from 1930 until 1932, when he was called as pastor of East Baptist Church in Paducah, Kentucky. He was there until 1943 and attended Southern Seminary for a time.

First Baptist Church, Crystal Springs, Mississippi, called him in 1943; and the Odles have been in Mississippi since then. He was pastor of the Crystal Springs church for four years and then accepted the pastorate of First Church, Gulfport in 1947.

In 1956 he became the associate executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. In 1959 he followed W. C. Fields as editor of the Baptist Record and served in that capacity until his retirement in August of 1976.

Mrs. Odle was Mabel Riley before their marriage. She was a daughter of a Baptist preacher. The Odles' daughter, Sarah, is now Mrs. Roland Maddox of Memphis, Tenn.

Odle engaged in evangelistic and mission trips all over the world. He made four trips to Israel, three at the invitation of the Israeli government. He toured South America in connection with attending the Baptist World Congress in Rio de Janeiro in 1960, and he toured the Orient in connection with attending the Baptist World Congress in Tokyo in 1970. Other trips were made to Alaska, the Bahamas, Italy, and the Philippines.

He was the author of four books—"It's a Great Life, Don't Miss It," "Is Christ Coming Soon?," "Why I Am a Baptist," and "The Coming of the King." In addition he wrote Church Member's Handbook, which was published by the Baptist Sunday School Board and of which more than two million copies have been distributed.

Jackson, Miss. (EP)—VOC Jubilee is a conference calling Christians to examine their economic responsibilities and to work for economic justice. The biblical economic principles of redistribution and the Old Testament Jubilee will be the major focus of the conference, together with the needs of Haiti and black Americans. VOC Jubilee, to be held July 11-13 in Jackson, is sponsored by Voice of Calvary Ministries.

Kansas City, Mo. (EP)—A National Centennial Congress to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Salvation Army's arrival in the United States will be held here June 12-16. It is expected to be the largest Salvation Army gathering ever held in this country and the first national congress in the U.S. since one in New York, in 1900 which celebrated the organization's jubilee. Some 12,000 Salvationists from all 50 states and 20 countries are expected to attend the celebration, which will be organized around the theme, "A Century in America Serving God and Man."

Queen's Court



ROBERT LEE, pianist, and CARROLL SHIRLEY, guitarist, accompanied "The Kinsmen" during their concert at Queen's Court.

Odle served as president of the Southern Baptist Press Association in 1971. This is the organization of Southern Baptist state papers. He was vice-president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 1953 and was elected as recording secretary following his retirement in 1976. He served as a member of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1949 until 1956 and as a member of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs from 1963 until 1969.

During his editorship the Baptist Record received 10 national press awards. He was listed in Who's Who in America, was a member of Rotary, and was a Kentucky Colonel.

Bangalore, India—The minister of health for the state of Karnataka, India, in which Bangalore Baptist Hospital is located, has complimented the hospital's growing outreach in community development through the training of village health workers. He also has expressed willingness on behalf of the state government to cooperate with Baptist Hospital in its planned expansion of the hospital's community development program.

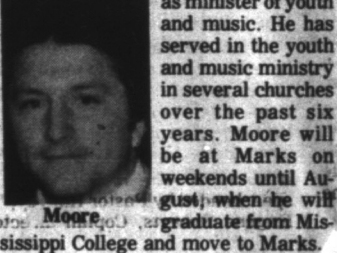
Staff Changes

William C. Foster is the new pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada County. He received his education at Sardis High School and Mississippi College. He has done further study through seminary extension work.

He and his wife Mabel have three children. Tina Ann, 22; Pamela Kaye, 20, married to Darrel Marsh of Hernando; and Bert, 12.

Before going to Hebron Church, Foster was pastor of French Camp Church and Bethesda Church in Choctaw and Montgomery Counties.

Greg Moore, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Moore of Grenada, has accepted the call of West Marks Church as minister of youth and music. He has served in the youth and music ministry in several churches over the past six years. Moore will be at Marks on weekends until August, when he will graduate from Mississippi College and move to Marks.



Manila, Philippines—Howard D. Olive, Southern Baptist missionary to the Philippines, recently received a "Plaque of Appreciation" from the Philippine Bureau of Prisoners in recognition of his extensive work with prisoners and his invaluable assistance in rehabilitation at the National Prison, Muntinlupa, according to missionary press representative William T. Roberson. A native of Ralston, Tenn., Olive directs the radio-television ministry of the Philippine Baptist Mission.

Stuttgart, Germany—Complete books of the Bible have been published in 1,685 different languages, according to the annual "Scripture Language Count" of the United Bible Societies. The whole Bible can now be read in 273 different languages. The complete New Testament is available in 472 more. Individual books of the Bible—like Psalms and the Gospels—had been published in 940 more languages as of December 31, 1979.



One hundred and eighty Acteens, their shining crowns denoting royalty, attended the banquet at Queen's Court Saturday evening, March 8.



A RAPID RETURN FROM THE TRADING POST was necessary when free time had ended. At center is D. P. Smith, state Acteens consultant who directed Queen's Court.

Slayden Wins First Place In Basketball

First place in the Marshall County Baptist Association's Basketball League was awarded to the Slayden Church at Slayden, Al Jackson, pastor. The league play began in January of this year and ended in March.

Second place was awarded to the Carey Chapel Church near Mt. Pleasant, Ken Bradley, pastor.

By vote of league teams and officials, the 1980 Sportsmanship Award went to the Slayden Church. Following league play, a tournament was held, and the over-all tournament winner was Slayden Church.

Dave Turner was league coordinator. Arthur H. Leslie is the Marshall County director of missions.

Washington (EP)—C. Ronald Goulding, Baptist World Alliance coordinator for relief and development, has received this letter from Clement Ritchell, general secretary of the Garo Baptist Union, Bangladesh: "The Garo Baptist Union of Bangladesh is sending you \$100 for Cambodian relief. It is a small gift, but it comes from the hearts of the drought and flood stricken Baptists who are in deep sympathy with the starving brothers and sisters of Cambodia."

Dewey Moore has accepted the call as pastor of Grace Church in Warren Association. He was welcomed by the congregation with an old-time pounding on Feb. 10. Moore moved to Grace from Pleasant Hill in Leake County, where he had been pastor for almost four years.

James Moore Brown has been called as minister of music and youth at Center Terrace Church, Canton. He is married to the former Tammy Lyles of Clinton. They have one son, Austin. He moved from the First Church, Raleigh. Zack Winningham is the Center Terrace pastor.

Calvary (Lincoln) pastor, Gene Erwin has resigned to accept the Harrisville Church in Simpson Association.

Pastor W. E. Derrick resigned Mission Hill (Lincoln) earlier in the year.

Daryl Oster has resigned as pastor of Union Hall (Lincoln) and moved to Ruston, La. He plans to continue his studies at Louisiana Tech.

Harvey Easterling, Pastor, Dies

Harvey R. Easterling, 54, Route 1, Ellisville, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Jones County, died unexpectedly March 16 in Jones County Community Hospital.

A lifelong resident of Jones County, Easterling was a former pastor at Pecan Grove Church. He was employed as a cable splicer with South Central Bell Telephone Co., and was a World War II Army veteran.

The funeral service for Easterling was held March 18 at 2 p.m. from Calvary Baptist Church with J. M. Foy and Gerald Hodges officiating. Burial was in Hickory Grove Cemetery.

Easterling is survived by his widow, Mrs. Rose Winslett Easterling, Ellisville; two sons, John Easterling, Fort Worth, Texas, and Jay Easterling, Oxford; three brothers, and two sisters.

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BAPTISTS AND THE BIBLE
L. Russ Brown and Tom J. Neffles
Why are Baptists and the Bible the controversial issues surrounding the Bible? Ideas about biblical authority have recently been thrust into the forefront of theological discussions in many Christian denominations. Baptist, no less than other groups, need to reach some kind of a consensus on what they believe doctrinally. If they are to face the future with an effective bold mission thrust. This major work encompasses all areas of Baptists and the Bible and will be an invaluable tool for researchers, scholars, and laymen. 360 pages.
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Names In The News . . .



STUDENTS met recently with representatives of the SOUTHWESTERN SEMINARY alumni association to discuss campus activities. Gathered are (row one, left to right) RICHARD JACKSON of Phoenix, Ariz., national president; PAUL BALDUCCI of Cleveland; MRS. MARY BALDUCCI of Cleveland; and JIM KEITH, Mississippi state alumni president; (row two) D. L. LOWRIE of Texarkana, Texas, national president-elect; and RUSSELL H. DILDAY, JR., seminary president. Keith is pastor at First Church, Gulfport. The student-representatives gathering was part of the annual workshop for presidents of the seminary's 36 state organizations.



Heuck's Retreat recently ordained three deacons: Hamp Smith, Perry Smith, and Elwin Haley.

Tony and Kathy Latham, missionaries to the Philippines, may be addressed at Celdran Village, Box 5685, Iligan City, Philippines. He is a native of Jackson, Tenn. She was born and grew up in Kosciusko, Miss.

Cleary Plans Miracle Day

Cleary Church, at Hoover Lake, near Florence, as other churches in the state, has been stressing high Sunday School attendance during March and will climax the month with MIRACLE DAY, March 30.

The day will begin with Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. The morning worship service will begin at 10:45 A.M. and will be opened with a children's choir and a children's sermon. Special music, "Miracles Every Day" by Robert C. Clatterbuck will be presented by the adult choir. The sermon will be presented by Tim Williams.

Dinner will be served on the grounds. The church will then present an afternoon of singing. "The Group" will perform; Stephanie Hooks from Mississippi College will play and sing, along with other visiting musical groups.

A film will be shown in the Children's Department during the day and the children will host their parents and visitors with an Open House.

Bill Barton, founder and superintendent of the Homes of Grace, Ocean Springs, was elected president of the Southern District of the International Union of Gospel Missions recently in Panama City, Fla. In the organization's annual meeting, Barton, a native of Abbeville, Ala., was ordained to the ministry by First Baptist Church of Mobile. He was pastor in Alabama for 10 years and of the Jackson Avenue Church, Pascagoula, for seven years.

Barton established the Home of Grace in 1965, and since then has organized a home for women alcoholics, a home for children from broken homes, and a senior citizens' home. During the 15 years he has worked with the Home of Grace, he has served as interim pastor for twenty churches.

Two executives of two Southern Baptist Convention agencies and the pastor of one of the leading black congregations in the United States have been named 1980 Distinguished Alumni at Southwestern Seminary. Jimmy R. Allen, new president of the Radio and Television Commission; S. M. Lockridge of San Diego, Calif.; and R. Keith Parks, new executive director of the Foreign Mission Board were selected. The trio will be honored at the seminary's national alumni luncheon June 10 in St. Louis, Mo.

Farming Projects Open Doors In India

BANGALORE, India — To improve living conditions and provide an opening to introduce Indian villages to Jesus Christ, the Bangalore Baptist Hospital community health division is helping finance various farming and irrigation projects.

Farmers in three villages decided their people would gain from the purchase of milk cows. Partial financial grants were available from the state government. The health division helped subsidize the balance needed.

In another village six farmers, with financial assistance from the community health program, are digging an irrigation well which will allow multiple crops per year and increase the small farmers' land yield.

After the health division staff provided an education program for one village, the villages realized they needed a proper drainage system. They have provided most of the labor and absorbed 75 percent of the cost, according to Ramesh Natar, missionary press representative.



Macedonia Men Go To Alabama

Baptist Men of Macedonia Church, Brookhaven (Lincoln Association) made a second trip in February to Alabama to help with the clean-up in the aftermath of Hurricane Frederic. This time they helped a family in Mobile County. Top photo, sawing a log, are Alton Walker; Gerald Moak, Brotherhood director; and Kenneth Britt, Baptist Men's president. Bottom photo, getting ready to burn more debris are Alton Walker, J. P. Britt, and Clyde Walker.



Devotional We Are Not Kite Strings!

By Lannie Wilbourn, Pastor, Pinelake (Rankin)

Mark 15: 11 Corinthians 5:18, 19

"Long, long ago in a land, far, far away" is the line which begins many fairy tales. We immediately know the story is legend, not contemporary, but probably amusing. Too often the story of the cross is assigned such a place in our thinking. This happens because we do not believe sin is serious enough that God had to do something about it. We sing, "All for sin could not atone, Thou must save, and Thou alone." But do we believe it?

March is kite flying weather. A "bat kite" and 500 feet of string were purchased by me three years ago. My son was two and I accepted the challenge of teaching him to fly a kite. A large open area was found and we began to run with the kite. Thirty minutes and one winded father later we succeeded in unraveling all 500 feet off the ground. I explained to my son the problem was in the kite and the wind.

Now the 500 feet of string had to be handled. The only stick around was two inches in diameter. We wound up the string, put the kite in the car, and went home. The kite got lost and the string on the stick was shelved. A year later, my ten month old daughter found the string! She had a ball unwinding the string and pulling it through the house. For her effort she was able to entangle toys, furniture and clothes in 400 feet of string.

One afternoon while home alone, I attempted to remedy this mess. Frustration prevailed and out came the scissors. Snip! Snip! Snip! and the tangle was finished. So was the string! It was useless knots and short pieces.

Our sins get us entangled to the point of chaos and uselessness. Hallelujah! God didn't bring out the scissors. He sent His only Son. God didn't snip, snip our lives like kite string. He redeemed us by the blood of His lamb!

Martin Luther referred to Horace's rule of dramatic art, that God must not be introduced into the action (of a play) unless the plot had gotten into such a tangle that only God could unravel it.

That is just what God did! And we are not kite strings to be cut, but individuals who can respond to this love of God.

Yes, long, long ago in a land far, far away Jesus died for contemporary men entangled in sin. Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Calvary, Tupelo SS Victory Proves Worth Of Visitation

February 24 was high attendance day in Sunday School at Calvary Church, Tupelo. With a Sunday School enrollment of 1080, department leaders turned in their goals and the grand total came to 710.

On Saturday, Feb. 23, an all-out visitation effort was made, with 119 members visiting prospects and absentees.

The end result: 106 visitors, nine new members 827 of the present enrollment present; a total of 942 present. A total of 2215 contacts were reported for the week before. John G. Armistead is pastor.

Just For The Record . . .

Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, plans to send volunteer groups this summer for construction projects in both Tacoma, Wash. and in Illinois or Indiana. In addition, a family-type camping group from the church plans to go to Great Falls, Mont. July 18-27, where they will work with Pastor Butch Miller in various types of construction work as well as in Bible teaching and helping to meet church development needs. Mrs. Sue Simpson is director of mission activities; Bob Hamblin is pastor.

Simpson Association, Mendenhall, has built a new crises house. The building is 14' x 32' and was built by volunteer labor in the association. It will house the present existing clothes closet, with space available for other items needed during emergencies. H. Glen Schilling is director of missions.

Calvary Church, Tupelo, voted to send \$4,000.00 to the Foreign Mission Board to be used for hunger relief with Cambodian refugees in overseas

camp. John Armistead is pastor.

Mrs. Sybil Brame Warren will teach *The Dynamic Woman I Am: Decision Making With God* by Barbara Joiner at First Church, Clinton, April 1 and 2.

She will teach the book twice. The first time will be April 1, beginning with a covered dish supper at 6:30 p.m. The second time will be April 2, at 10 a.m., followed by a covered dish luncheon. A nursery will be provided, but reservations for it should be made in advance by calling 824-0444.

Life and Work Lesson

Coping With Persecution

By Tommy Tutor, Pastor
First, Holly Springs

Revelation 1:9; 2:1-11; 6:9-11; 11:15-18

Christians still face persecution. Learning to cope with it is important. One man said that trials did not hurt us, but the way we react to them would. John was writing to encourage during the time of persecution. His writing was firmly anchored in history — in the situation of the first-century church.

The first three chapters speak to the historical situation of the first-century church. Later chapters take on more of an eschatological dimension. Revelation expresses a conflict expectation concerning the outcome of history. God is sovereign. He will bring history to its conclusion when his plan and purpose are complete.

I. Mutually Sharing In Tribulation (Revelation 1:9)

John writes as a sufferer in the suffering. He was suffering along with the readers. John had been exiled on Patmos for conduct and convictions as a believer. The "kingdom" of Jesus Christ is that mediatorial kingdom whose beginning, progress, struggle, and final triumph are the subjects which John addresses.

The word translated tribulation means a pressing or compression. It came to mean affliction, oppression, or tribulation in New Testament usage. Thus it is evident that the Christians, including John, were suffering because of their faith commitment to Christ. Some form of persecution, most likely a persecution during the reign of Domitian (A.D. 81-96), was in progress, and the churches and individual Christians were suffering because of it. Perhaps John was in exile as a result of this same wave of persecution.

John's personal testimony and sharing of God's word got him into trouble with the pagan and religious world. But it should be noted that John shared with his Christian brothers things other than tribulation. He also shared the kingdom and patient endurance.

II. Mutually Experiencing Persecution (Revelation 1:9-11)

John is addressing a letter to one of the seven churches. In this letter to the church at Smyrna he notes a common affliction and persecution. The Christians at Smyrna had been experiencing

persecution — in the form of tribulation, poverty, and slander.

The poverty (descriptive of one who is destitute) experienced by the Christians most likely grew out of their persecution — either by mob violence against the Christians or from Domitian's policy of confiscating the property of Christians. The slander came from the Jews in Smyrna. The believers were commended for remaining faithful, rich in spirit even in this severe time of persecution.

There was more to come. Even the worst was yet to come. The Christians at Smyrna had known dire trials, but a more severe suffering was at hand. Some believers would be cast into prison, a place where they faced trial and possibly death. This was a time of testing. The "ten day" duration of the trial served to show the believers in symbolic way that the length of the testing would be relatively short. The reward (crown), to be won is everlasting.

John encouraged the Christians to be faithful till death. Martyrdom would be victory to these believers. The crown of life — ultimate victory — would be theirs. John could not promise immunity from the first death, but he could assure the faithful that they could and would escape the second (spiritual) death. This encouragement of love to be faithful and true and to overcome the second death was given to strengthen and sustain these Christians in their trials and tribulations.

III. Martyred Believers (Revelation 6:9-11)

Christians were slain both under Nero and now under Domitian. A long line of martyrs have followed. There is a cry for avenging and judgment. The cry here for judgment is at the time when grace has come to an end. They cry to have their blood avenged upon those dwelling on the earth. The cry is to God for final and full judgment.

John tells of the events associated with the opening of the fifth seal. The message of the passage helped answer two questions: (1) What has happened to those who have been martyred? (2) Why is God's final victory delayed? The martyrs appear under a heavenly altar. They are there because they have been martyred. They ask for vindication.

He gave them a white robe which is a

symbol of victory and purity. (2) He told them to rest a little longer, a rest which comes in God's presence. (3) He gave them a reason for his delay that being the day of suffering is not over yet. More believers will be martyred.

Other candidates of martyrdom have not had the opportunity to win their crown of victory. This passage gives insight to the former questions raised and gives inspiration and encouragement to the readers to remain faithful and to join their brethren in victory.

IV. Ultimate Victory (Revelation 11:15-18)

This passage presents the voices of all the saints, the hosts of heaven, after the day of judgment has brought the world and time to an end. This is the certain and glorious outcome of the age-long struggle against Satan. God has permitted his kingdom on the earth. Satan had offered Jesus a partnership in his kingdom on the earth. The struggles, trials, and temptations are to end. The Redeemer has fully redeemed both the believers and the world.

The reign and rule of Christ has come. John expressed the certainty of Christ's being in control by using the past tense. Christ's reign will not be a temporary one. Rather, it will last forever and ever.

Arkansas Calls Tommy Tutor

Tommy Tutor, pastor of First Church, Holly Springs, has resigned to accept a call as pastor of First Church, Benton, Ark. During his seven-year pastorate at Holly Springs the church grew from a low of 250 average in Sunday School to a high of 362; total gifts increased from \$96,972 in 1973 to \$314,099 in 1979; baptisms averaged 40 and thirty-eight by letter during the seven years; total resident members increased over two hundred during this time.

Tutor is a native of Pontotoc, Mississippi. He and his wife, Rose, have one daughter, Paulette who lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

He will continue to write the Life and Work Lesson for the Baptist Record. He will continue to write the Life and Work Lesson for the Baptist Record. He will continue to write the Life and Work Lesson for the Baptist Record.

Bible Book Series

Paul's Stay In Rome

By J. Roy McComb, Pastor
First, Columbia

Acts 28:11-31

Apart from the incident with the serpent and the experience of healing the official's father, Luke does not tell us of Paul's other activities during his three month stay in Malta. We can imagine that the apostle busied himself evangelizing the natives of the islands. I. Paul's Dream Realized (Acts 28:11-14).

The Apostle Paul had his face set for Rome for a long time. It seemed that he would never get to Rome. However, finally he is going to be able to meet the Christians in Rome. After three months in the island of Malta, they sailed on an Alexandrian ship for Rome.

They stopped in at Syracuse for three days. They arrived in Rhegium. Rhegium was an Italian seaport opposite the northeast point of Cilicia. After leaving here they arrived in Puteoli. There Paul found some Christians and was allowed to spend the week with them. This would indicate the attitude of the Roman centurion toward the Apostle Paul. Obviously great respect and confidence had developed on the part of the centurion toward the Christian Paul. This city is eight miles southwest from Naples and was the principal harbor south of Rome in Paul's days. In these closing verses of the book of Acts we find appearing several Christian groups, the origin of which we have no definite knowledge.

The Christians in Rome had heard of the imminent arrival of this great apostle in their city. It appears that two groups left the city in order to meet the apostle. One group went as far as the forum of Appii. This was about 43 miles from Rome. Another group met Paul at Three Taverns, about 33 miles from Rome. This would indicate something of the interest and the excitement on the part of the Christians in Rome at the possibility of getting a chance to visit and see the apostle. This would indicate something of the Apostle Paul's popularity and respect from the Christians in Rome. When Paul arrived in Rome, he was allowed to live in a place by himself with only one soldier to guard him. This would indicate that the Roman government apparently given a very commendable

report concerning Paul. It would also indicate that being accused by Jews from Jerusalem was not such a disgraceful or significant event.

II. Paul's Declaration to the Jews in Rome (Acts 28:17-28)

Paul's first official act after getting settled in Rome was with in three days, when he called the leaders of the Jews together. The purpose for this was to inform them concerning his innocence. Paul related his Jerusalem experience to them. He declares that he is not guilty. He advises them that he has been carefully examined and could have been released, but the Jews objected.

As a result of this, he appealed to Caesar. He wanted to make them understand that he did not appeal to Caesar in order to bring charges against his own people. He appealed to Caesar in order to avoid unfair and malicious treatment. Then he says it is because of the hope of Israel that he is in chains. By this Paul is saying to them that it is not because he is guilty of any offense, but rather he is guilty of declaring the fulfillment of the hope of Israel in Jesus of Nazareth.

The Jewish leaders responded by explaining to Paul that they had not received any letters from Judea concerning him. They were not aware of the charges against him. They had heard nothing bad about him. However, they said they were anxious to hear his views. The reason was that they were aware of and familiar with the Christian faith, which they called a sect. This would appear to give evidence that already the Christians and the Jews were quite separate. You will recall for many years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus the Jews who were converted to Christianity continued to go to the synagogues and the temple. However, as time went along the separation became very distinct and vivid. It was inevitable that they separate. The Jews could not tolerate the preaching of the Christians that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah and that the resurrection for which all Jews waited, except for the Sadducees, had been fulfilled in Jesus.

The Jews agreed to meet Paul the next day. They did so and brought a large number of them. From morning to evening Paul explains and de-

clares the kingdom of God and attempts to convince them about Jesus, from the Old Testament. Some of the Jews were convinced by what Paul said, but others were not and refused to believe. The Jews themselves got into a disagreement and began to leave after Paul made the final statement.

The final statement he made was that the Holy Spirit spoke "the truth to your forefathers" when said through Isaiah the prophet and he quotes to them Isaiah 6:9-10.

Isaiah 6:9-10 says that they are always hearing and not understanding; always seeing, but not perceiving. Their hearts are calloused; their eyes and ear are closed. If it were not so, they would see and understand and know that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ.

In verse 38 Paul makes a closing statement which appears to be a prophetic statement. By this it appears that Paul is, in essence, saying God is going to move the emphasis from the nation of Israel to the Gentiles. The gospel was to go to the Jews first. God honored his people with the offer of the gospel first. Now it seems, however, that Paul is declaring that the gospel will be primarily proclaimed to the Gentiles. This is surely a sad prophecy for the nation of Israel.

III. Paul's Unhindered Ministry in Rome (Acts 28:30-31)

The book of Acts closes with a very positive word about Paul. For two years Paul stayed in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. Apparently, he had freedom and others had free access to him. Boldly and without hindrance, he preached the kingdom of God and taught concerning Jesus Christ. The last verse would indicate without any hesitation or compromise, whatever, he proudly and clearly declared the full gospel to all who came to him while imprisoned in Rome. Paul turned his prison into a pulpit. He turned his chains into the communication of the gospel.

I close these lessons in the book of Acts by saying to you that whatever your state or condition or circumstance you can still proclaim the gospel. Our circumstances should not hinder us from proclaiming the gospel.